

# ALAN TAYLOR

P O BOX 700623; TULSA, OK 74170-0623

918-447-8951

alantaylorministries.org

## Trust God With Your Future

Many years ago, a young lady was being courted by a boy, who she loved with all of her heart. They knew they were going to spend the rest of their lives together, and she couldn't be more excited about her future. She had dreams of children, and grand children, as she desired to build a beautiful home together. Then one morning, the most horrible feeling struck her heart, as she heard the news reports that the country was going to war, and the young men were being drafted into the military.

It wasn't long until he received the letter, and brought it by, to show her that he was leaving to go into battle. They cried many tears together, as they were being forced to put aside their plans and dreams. He promised that he would return, and they would have a life together. She would hold her heart from being sick each day, as she cautiously read the paper, that listed the fallen soldiers, who died in battle. She would pray that he would not be killed, and that one day her dreams of a family with him would come true.

Other men came to her during this time, and desired a relationship with her, but she didn't want them; she didn't want second best, she only wanted the one who she loved. Years went by, and all seemed lost as there looked like there was no end to the war, and there was no word from her sweetheart for a long time. Her family tried to talk her into moving on and starting a family with another boy, but she refused to give up on her hope. They meant well, and just didn't want time to waste away for her, but she was holding on to her dream.

Then, just as quick as it began, it ended. The news reports shouted, as the war was finished, and the surviving soldiers were being sent home. She had so many unanswered questions in her heart: "Was he one of the surviving soldiers? Would he still want her? Would he still want a family?" It had been so long, that she wanted to believe, but she also didn't want to be crushed with rejection. The announcement came out that the train, carrying the returning warriors, would arrive the next day. She prepared with both fear, and anticipation at the same time; she wanted so much for her hope to be fulfilled.

She looked beautiful and radiant, as she stood at the train station, with the rest of town, to welcome back the returning men. Even with the large crowd of people crushing each other, the two of them spotted each other immediately, as he stepped off the train. Soon they were in each others arms as he said, "I told you I would return," and to her greatest hope, he knelt down on one knee and asked her to be his wife - to start a family together. Good endings happened like this many times throughout history, and in one moment everything that she thought she may have lost came back to her.

Over twenty five hundred years ago, another author wrote of something similar to our story, and said, "*Hope deferred makes the heart sick, But when the desire comes, it is a tree of life.*" - Proverbs 13:12. Many of us have felt the same as this beautiful girl, when it comes to the dreams, and desires, that the Lord has given us. We have patiently waited for God's best, and have bravely refused to accept something that is second best. Even when it seemed so much easier to go a different path, we still stood strong on God's promises to us. I have found that the road to the High Call of God, is littered with many tests and trials from the enemy. We have had to make choices, over and over again, to not run because of frustration, or because of opportunity.

The moment we are born again, and part of the Family of God, then the Lord creates a path for each of

us, and on that path is everything we will ever need to succeed. It contains the victory for every prayer we could pray, it contains the promises of our family being born again, and on this path is the place where the desires of our hearts come to pass. This is the road that will lead us to fulfilling our calling in the body of Christ. As we yield our steps to our Father, He will faithfully lead us on this path of victory that He has designed personally for each of us.

This is why, the enemy works tirelessly, to destroy your hope that God will be faithful to his promises to you. He attempts to convince us, that you are all alone in your life, and in your dreams, so that you will not trust God. His goal is to make us question, if we ever really heard God in the first place, and if God really loves us that much. If the devil succeeds in his attack, then we will grasp the leadership of our life, away from Him, and attempt to make the plan of our life come to pass on our own. This is when we start looking for a “plan b,” another way for us to follow God.

Abraham had a promise, of a new born son from God, but he attempted to make it happen on his own, with Sarah's handmaiden, and they produced Ishmael. Ishmael is an example of man, trying to fulfill their calling, in their own ability, instead of trusting God to give it them. *“Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.”* Psalms 37:4 says that our Heavenly Father wants to give us the desires of our hearts, if we delight ourselves in Him.

This last year, I have witnessed many beautiful believers, come under the worse of attacks of the enemy. He has brought hopelessness, and feelings of despair, upon some of the strongest people I know. They couldn't force the emotional attack to leave, so they had to walk through this battle that was waging in their hearts. The enemy told them that their dreams and desires would never come to pass, and God will never see them worthy of the promises. And like the girl in our story, their hearts became sick because their hope was deferred, and every time they thought something was about to change, the enemy would come and cause a distraction. It is amazing how the wrong opportunity always shows up, just before God's promises.

I watched these brave believers refuse to accept a different path; it took all of their strength and courage, as they would look the devil in the eye, and speak the Word of God. They had to cast down the emotions of doubt, failure and abandonment, as they placed their heart into the Word of God and to the promises that had been prophesied to them. 1 Corinthians 1:3-4 says, *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”*

As we begin this next year, I want to encourage you with the last half of the scripture from Proverbs 13:12: ***“But when the desire comes, it is a tree of life.”*** Even if your heart has become sickened, because you are still waiting for answered prayers and your dreams to come to pass, the scripture gives us a promise, that if we stay on the path the Lord has for us, then those desires will come and they will be as a tree of life for us. Don't get discouraged, because I believe, that as much as last year was a test for many of us to get sidetracked in our walk of obedience, I also believe that this next year is one of great victory, that will be given to us by the Lord. So get dressed and get ready, because His promises are coming home.

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