



**The Truth About the Benefits of Celebration
(Have You Lost Hope in the Year)**

Date: December 18, 2022

Series Summary:

1. The Truth About the Importance of Celebration (I choose to celebrate)
2. The Truth About the Hindrance to Celebration (I choose to not be hindered)
- 3. The Truth About the Benefits of Celebration (I choose hope)**
4. The Truth About Choosing a Day to Celebrate (I choose Christmas)

Statement: Celebration and hope can be a fragile and temporary gift that can leap out of your hands easily.

Text:Proverbs 13:12:

Hope deferred makes the heart **sick**, but a **longing** fulfilled is a tree of **life**.

Question: How would you benefit if you really had what you hoped for?

I. Four Things I Hoped for That Would Have Harmed Me

1. **Love** too early
2. **Wealth** too fast
3. **Power** before I was trained
4. **Influence** before I was mature

Note: God had a plan to give me what I hoped for that brought amazing benefits.

II. God's Plan to Give me What I Hoped For

Acts 2:41-45 (NIV)

1. He first had to introduce me to the **right place** to fellowship (v41)
 2. He had to introduce me to **people who believed** in the miraculous (v43)
 3. He had to introduce me to **people who understood giving** (v44-45)
- 41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. 42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.
 - 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.



- 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.

In Conclusion:

III. The Benefits That Came When God Gave Me What I Hoped For

1. I was no longer sick
2. I no longer lived with a nagging longing
3. I felt as if I had eaten from the tree of life (**Proverbs 13:12**)

“Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.”

Next Time: The Truth About the Value of Choosing a Day to Celebrate