



**THE DANGER
OF DELAY**



Delay always breeds danger.

~ Miguel de Cervantes

AZ QUOTES



Defer no time, delays have dangerous ends.

~ William Shakespeare

AZ QUOTES

Jesus

- Luke 9:57–62
- In some cases, we do need to delay.
 - “Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath” (James 1:19).
- But not when it comes to doing what is right in the sight of God.
 - “I thought about my ways, and turned my feet to your testimonies. I made haste, and **did not delay** to keep Your commandments” (Psalms 119:59–60).

Delay demonstrates unbelief

- House on fire
- Life saving surgery
- Repent, or perish (Luke 13:3, 5). Do we believe this warning from Jesus?
- Hebrews 3:18–19

Delay tests God, puts Him on trial

- Jesus said to him (devil): “It is written, ‘You shall not tempt the LORD your God’” (Matt. 4:7).
- “Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, in the day of trial in the wilderness, where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, and saw My works forty years” (Heb. 3:8–9). Numbers 14:22–23.
- Delay puts His longsuffering, His patience on trial.
 - 2 Pet. 3:9–10; Rom. 2:4–5.

Delay is disobedience

- How often do we see things we ought to be doing, or stop doing, and yet we delay?
- Felix: Acts 24:24–25
- Luke 9:57–62.
 - These reasons you're giving for delay, they won't do!
 - The kingdom must come first!

Delay is a stumbling block to others

- The impact of one upon many is taught throughout Scripture (for good or bad).
- Example: my grandfather
- Parents and children.
- Example: King Manasseh (2 Chron. 33)
 - His delay cost the lives of thousands of people.

Delay is seductive

- Sure you won't become hardened? Heb. 3:12–13.
 - Squelch that desire to seek God, to do the right thing, and do it for long enough, and it may just go away.
- Do you know how much time you have?
 - Too many folks are going to die thinking about doing the right thing.

CONCLUSION:

- The message of the Bible regarding obedience is one of urgency.
 - Acts 2, 8, 16, 19.
 - “Behold, now (March 5, 2017, 11 a.m.) is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation” (2 Cor. 6:2).
 - Joshua: “Choose *today* whom you will serve” (Joshua 24:15).