

Why Wait?
(Rev. Dr. John Bartol)

“Every great thinker, every great man of spiritual insight has believed and taught the principle of deferred gratification –put simply, that’s putting off immediate satisfaction for greater returns later on.” David Augsburger

We are living in what sociologist Max Lerner calls “The age of Instantism”. We wake up with instant coffee, breakfast with instant cereals, expect instant success and demand instant performance from others. Then we go home to eat instant precooked frozen dinners. Do it now, buy it now! Why wait?

Break off the bud and you will destroy both flower and fruit.
Eat your cake now and you will have a crummy tomorrow.
Short-sighted living brings long, long regrets.

Anyone of my grandchildren, with his/her computer, can solve, in less than 30 minutes, what would have taken my father many hours, even days to accomplish. As our affluence increases, so do the impatient voices demanding instant everything.

However, some things can only be gained by working and waiting. You can’t manufacture instant maturity; you can’t build instant character; you can’t buy instant happiness. What is the formula for happiness? The answer: there is none! You won’t find happiness in things, or pleasure or even success. You search there in vain. Why? Because happiness is a by-product, the overflow from a way of life that seeks to make others happy. The person preoccupied with themselves, cannot be joyful.

Happiness is in the fulfillment of the person you were meant to be! Only through commitment to a cause worth living for and dying for can you find lasting happiness independent of outward circumstances.

Each one of us had a life to commit. A life to invest. There are no rehearsals for life. No reruns. No second tries. It’s a one-way trip. So, each step, each act, each decision counts. None of us can live our lives over again so why not choose to live life rightly the first time through.

Every year thousands are killed, and millions are injured through auto accidents. Studies have revealed that two of the most common causes are excessive speed and failure to yield the right-of-way. In Psalm 32:9 we read, “Do not be like a senseless horse or mule.” Some of us are like the horse- we can’t wait; we rush ahead even when we are not sure where we are going. Others are stubborn like the mule and will not yield to anybody. One of the marks of maturity is patience, a willingness to wait for God’s time. If we don’t know His will, let us wait on the Lord. If we do know His will, let us step out in faith and obey it

The only lasting solution to human problems this world has ever seen came through those people who invested their lives in working and waiting. Those who sacrificed for the moment to build for the future.

Jesus said, *“Seek the kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need” (Matthew 6:33 NTL).*