

# Don't Wait

John M. Buttrey II

We talk often about the need for patience. We discuss the value of waiting for God. The Scriptures are full of such instruction and encouragement (cf. Ps. 25:3; 27:14; 37:7; Lam. 3:25; Phil. 3:20). However, there are moments in our lives as Christians when we must not wait, times when we must act quickly. Once again, the Scriptures identify some of these times.

Jesus warned His disciples of the then coming destruction of Jerusalem. When they saw certain signs, they were to not wait, but rather, act quickly:

“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then **recognize that her desolation is near**. Then those who are in Judea must **flee to the mountains**, and those who are in the midst of the city must leave, and those who are in the country must not enter the city;

Luke 21:20-21 (Emphasis Mine)

In the same way, when we see our enemy at work in our lives in times of temptation, we must not wait to act. James tells us to resist the devil (James 4:7). Our resistance must be strong and quick. Without hesitation, we must look for the way of escape promised by God (1 Cor. 10:13).

When Ananias went to Saul of Tarsus, he encouraged the now enlightened persecutor of the church not to wait in his response to the message he had received from the Christ on the road to Damascus:

Now **why do you delay?** Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.’

Acts 22:16 (Emphasis Mine)

In the same way, in our sharing the word of God with others, there is a sense of urgency that we must tactfully communicate with them.

The Scriptures also tell us that when we have the opportunity and means to help another who is in need, we are not to wait:

Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due,  
When it is in your power to do it.

Proverbs 3:27

So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

Galatians 6:10

One final example that we should not wait to present: When it comes to being more involved in personal evangelism, we must not wait any longer. The world needs to hear the true message of the Gospel. The apostle Paul said it well:

How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach

unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!"

Romans 10:14-15

So, what are you waiting for?