

## Calvary Confronts The Problem of Seeking Instant Gratification

***Delayed gratification goes against the grain of American culture.*** From social media, entertainment to our mobile devices we face everyday overdose proportions of immediate gratification choices. Often times when people are asked to wait in a grocery line, an on hold telephone call, or for delivery to their home they find themselves experiencing great restless anxieties. This spills into ones prayer life when God wants them to wait for an answer or continue to long suffer with a relationship.

Instant gratification is not only an enemy to cross living philosophies but it is a friend of Satan because the principles of the cross ALL require self denial, delayed gratification and the embracing of Calvary's hardships to truly experience superior love unparalleled to human love.

Paul describes this in ***Philippians 3:10 AMPC***

[10] [For my determined purpose is] that I may know Him [that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly], and that I may in that same way come to know the power outflowing from His resurrection [which it exerts over believers], and that I may so share His sufferings as to be continually transformed [in spirit into His likeness even] to His death, [in the hope]

**No human flesh will ever be satisfied getting all it wants when it wants!**

This is why Paul said to be carnally minded is death and enmity against God, because the carnal mind seeks gratification without Calvary's love and delayed gratification. Only by submitting human flesh to Calvary's covenant circumcision identity will we enjoy the choice for delayed gratification, because this brings honor and glory to Jesus Christ.

Your delayed gratification in fasting, in disciplined time in prayer, and in long suffering to tolerate challenging relationships brings honor to Calvary. You are delaying what your flesh wants to do in the name of Calvary's suffering love. This brings purpose and definition to what normally would be fleshly aggravations and disappointments.

***1 Corinthians 9:26-27 AMPC***

[26] Therefore I do not run uncertainty (without definite aim). I do not box like one beating the air and striking without an adversary. [27] But [like a boxer] I buffet my body [handle it roughly, discipline it by hardships] and subdue it, for fear that after proclaiming to others the Gospel and things pertaining to it, I myself should become unfit [not stand the test, be unapproved and rejected as a counterfeit].

**INSTANT GRATIFICATION BEGAN WITH LUCIFER AND THE FIVE I WILL'S**

***Isaiah 14:13-14 AMPC***

[13] And you said in your heart,

1. I will ascend to heaven;
2. I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;

3. I will sit upon the mount of assembly in the uttermost north.
4. [14] I will ascend above the heights of the clouds;
5. I will make myself like the Most High.

King Saul lost his kingdom because he could not practice loving God in waiting for Samuels instructions at Gilgal. Delayed gratification is literally tied into a salvation issue when the Bible says, "For in your patience possess ye your soul."

**So there is great power and fulfillment in delayed gratification:**

1. We renew our spiritual and physical strength
2. We experience new levels of intimacy with the character and nature of Jesus Christ.
3. God purifies our motives and attitudes while we wait.
4. God keeps us from impulsive destructive consequences when we practice delayed gratification.
5. God gives us peace over the anxieties and fears while we practice waiting on him.
6. We receive fresh divine direction while waiting that we otherwise would not have received.

**Romans 12:10-13 AMPC**

[10] Love one another with brotherly affection [as members of one family], giving precedence and showing honor to one another. [11] Never lag in zeal and in earnest endeavor; be aglow and burning with the Spirit, serving the Lord. [12] Rejoice and exult in hope; be steadfast and patient in suffering and tribulation; be constant in prayer. [13] Contribute to the needs of God's people [sharing in the necessities of the saints]; pursue the practice of hospitality.

**Psalms 27:14 AMPC**

[14] Wait and hope for and expect the Lord; be brave and of good courage and let your heart be stout and enduring. Yes, wait for and hope for and expect the Lord.

**1 Corinthians 13:4 AMPC**

[4] Love endures long and is patient and kind; love never is envious nor boils over with jealousy, is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily.

**Ephesians 4:2 AMPC**

[2] Living as becomes you] with complete lowliness of mind (humility) and meekness (unselfishness, gentleness, mildness), with patience, bearing with one another and making allowances because you love one another.

**Colossians 1:11 AMPC**

[11] [We pray] that you may be invigorated and strengthened with all power according to the might of His glory, [to exercise] every kind of endurance and patience (perseverance and forbearance) with joy,

**Isaiah 40:29-31 AMPC**

[29] He gives power to the faint and weary, and to him who has no might He increases strength [causing it to multiply and making it to abound]. [30] Even youths shall faint and be weary, and [selected] young men shall feebly stumble and fall exhausted; [31] But those who wait for the Lord [who expect, look for, and hope in Him] shall change and renew

their strength and power; they shall lift their wings and mount up [close to God] as eagles [mount up to the sun]; they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint or become tired.

**Calvary gives us the definition, the purpose and meaning for our choice to delay our gratifications. In this we find honor, self dignity and a greater sense of self esteem. All because we crucified the attitudes of instant gratifications in our:**

1. Material purchases
2. Our eating habits
3. Our engulfing on fleshly appetites
4. And decisions that bring instant enjoyment to the flesh at the expense of the kingdom of Jesus Christ.

In the end He gives us the desires of our hearts. We do received delayed gratification that enjoys the things God wants us to have in His time. For only God knows how to satisfy the spirit of a person according to Calvary's covenant love.

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