

# **You Don't Need to Hurry**

*By Bobby Schuller*

Today, I want to talk about one of the most important things about achieving, succeeding, thriving and most of all being a joyful person, and that is stop hurrying. Stop hurrying. Very often in life, we're like that guy looking for a parking spot, who's zipping around. He's in front of you and he fly's past that one spot in the front, and you're going nice and slow and you see that car come out, and you just slide right in, right? When you're in a hurry, when you're moving, when you're going a million miles an hour, you miss out on the opportunities, the joys, and the little paths that take you to big victories in life.

So today we're going to talk about I don't need to hurry. And need is one of the words in that sentence that is so important. Many of us hurry because we think we have to, right? We feel an inner need to hurry. But you don't have to hurry 99% of the time, okay? If you're getting chased by a lion, if there's a sale at In-n-Out; I don't know, this is the most random joke.

Look, most of the time you don't have to hurry, and hurry doesn't make you more successful. It makes you clumsy. It makes you blind. It makes it where you miss out on the things that are supposed to come in your life.

So we need to let go of hurrying because hurrying comes from a place of worry, of anxiety, of lack, and you have everything you need. You're in the kingdom of God. You have all the time in the world, all the health in the world, all the life in the world made available to you. You are a ceaseless being in God's great kingdom. You have an eternal destiny, and a destiny means you will get there. It's your destiny, so put your faith in that. God will get you there. Hurrying won't get you there faster. It'll just make the journey painful, arduous, and it'll make your life go faster.

You can't be in a hurry and be loving. You can't be in a hurry and be compassionate. You can't be in a hurry and be present with friends who are hurting. Or to be able to notice someone who is suffering. With all the recent suicides that have been happening in America, I wonder how many people hurried past their friend that just needed to notice that they weren't doing very well. You can't be compassionate and be in a hurry, and some of the worst decisions you make in your life are the result of being in a hurry. So today, slow down, relax, and trust in the goodness of God. He'll get you to your destiny. Amen.

There was a recent study that was done. Malcolm Gladwell published it in one of his books, and it was about the study of Princeton Seminary students. At Princeton, they divided them into two groups, and it was a trick. They gave them all this task of preaching a sermon on the Good Samaritan, which if you don't know, the Good Samaritan is a story about

a man who was beaten up on the side of the road, and religious people step over him on their way to do religious things. And one man, the Samaritan, that is the outcast, the unreligious, the guy that's not allowed to go to church, the sinner, he's the one who stops and helps the man on the side of the road, and God says.. Jesus says this is the man who loved his neighbor.

So then these Princeton Seminary students are supposed to give a speech on this story. And they're divided into two groups – one group that is hurried, and another group that isn't. And then what they do is they ask them to wait in this room and while they're waiting to give their speech, they have this actor dressed up like a man who's been mugged, laying on the road in front of the door to the building where they're going to give their speech and they want to see what happens.

In the first group, they say around the time of their speech, 'oh, you're late. They were expecting you a few moments ago. You better get going.' And they wanted to see what would happen with those people as they went to the door to see if they'd help the man. And in the second group, they said, 'oh, you've got a few minutes to spare, but you might as well head over early.' Of the two groups, the group that was in a hurry, only ten percent of them stopped to help the man who was beaten in front of the door, to give a speech on the Good Samaritan.

In the group that wasn't hurried, 63% actually stopped and helped the man, which still seems low to me, by the way. But it is crazy that of

those seminarians, these are men and women who are training to become people of God, training to become pastors, who are literally giving a sermon on how religious people go past people that are hurting, literally in a hurry. They said some of them actually had to step over the mugged man to get in to give a speech on the Good Samaritan.

Who's surprised? Not I. I know I am at my worst when I'm in a hurry. How about you? It's a constant temptation to hurry everywhere we go. There's this urgency, a sense of lack. I don't have enough time. I need to accomplish more. But if you're an achiever, friends; if you're a business owner, if you've got big dreams in your heart, maybe you're a young person here today, I want you to know the best way to achieve things to God is to hold things loosely. To be smart. To be patient. To be consistent and you will do great things for God. Trust Him with all your heart. Don't worry about it. You'll get where you're supposed to go. Don't live every day from this place of lack. That's what hurrying is. It's a place of worry, it's a place of fear, it's a place of lack, and it causes life to go by too fast, and it causes you to not notice the great things that God puts in your life.

When you think about somebody who's always in a hurry all the time, versus someone who's slow and consistent, it's the slow person who comes across as noble, strong, dignified. That's the person you want to hire, that's the person you want to get to know, that's the person that

you think is going to lead. And so be there! God will get you where you're supposed to go. Stop trying to hurry your destiny.

Life - I don't know about you, but I think life is too good to spend in a hurry. If I bought you a filet mignon with mashed potatoes and shoestring French fries, you wouldn't hurry through that thing. You'd take it nice and slow, taking in every bite. Who hurries through an expensive meal? I certainly don't. Why would you hurry through life? It's too good to spend in a hurry.

In Proverbs 3, there's this great passage, very famous, and it touches on this point. Now the Proverbs are an amazing tool for becoming a man or a woman of God. I think every disciple should read the Proverbs. It was actually my grandma Persley that helped me understand this, that there are 31 chapters in Proverbs, and there are 31 days in a month. So if you don't know what to read in your Bible today, read Proverbs whatever day of the month it is. I can never remember. And that will help you grow in wisdom, stature, and it'll help you achieve the things you're supposed to do for God.

But here in Proverbs 3, he says "my son," or maybe we'll say my daughter, my children, for all of you out there. "Do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart for they will prolong your life many years, and bring you peace, and prosperity. Let love and faithfulness never leave you. Bind them around your neck. Write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the

sight of God and man.” And here comes the famous one. “Don’t be in a hurry,” don’t worry, “but rather trust in the Lord with all your heart. Trust Him. And lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your path straight.”

I think the reason that we, as Christians, are in a hurry so often is that we simply don’t trust the Lord. We don’t trust that He’ll make our paths straight. We don’t trust that He’ll get us there. We don’t even believe that many of the goals that we have are from God, but we’re like well we’re just going to do them anyway. Friends, trust me. If you have a big dream in your heart, and it’s a good dream, there’s a very good chance it’s from the Lord. And if it’s not from the Lord, it’s the worst thing that could ever happen to you. You want to be a happy, joyful, successful person? Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding, but in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will get you there. He’ll get you where you need to go.

It reminds me of what Jesus says in the Sermon on the Mount. “Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness.” Then what? “Then all these things.” Everybody say all these things. “All these things will be added to you.” We can trust that God is powerful. He’s willing. He’s able. Hurry is coming from a place of untrusting. It’s a place of lack, it’s a place of worry, and your life is too good to be lived in that way. Right? You have an amazing life; amazing opportunities before you. So if you’re going to see them, you need to walk in the easy rhythms of grace. You

need to slow down and open your spiritual eyes to see all the good that's around you.

Why do we hurry so much? Again, I think it's that most of think we don't have enough time. A great way to show this is by thinking about a clock, actually. What comes to your mind, what kind of feelings come to your body when you think about a clock? They're probably bad, right, especially if it's an alarm clock. Clocks invoke these feelings of I don't have enough time, of a measurement that I'm running out of time, I'm getting older, I'm not where I want to be in my life, I thought I'd be better than this. There's a reason the grim reaper holds an hourglass in his hand. He's like ha, ha ha, you're out of time. Right? There's this sense about the clock that makes us feel like we just don't have enough time.

And there's an irony about that. Did you know when the mechanical clock was invented in the medieval age it was designed by Benedictine monks to teach them to stop working and to pray. So in those days, before then in the 11<sup>th</sup> century in Europe, there were clocks that were sun dials and water clocks and sand clocks, but they weren't really used that often. And in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, these Benedictine monks wanted to know the exact precise time of when they were supposed to pray. And so what happened, the clock would go off, and they'd be outside taking care of the crops, or bees, or whatever they were doing, or brewing, which is very common. And the bell would go off, and it would tell them it's time to stop working, and it's time to rest, and it's time to go

in the house of the Lord where it's cool and quiet in the shade, and to gather with your brothers and pray.

So the origin of the clock was to teach us to stop working so hard, to stop going so fast, and to remember the Lord. Isn't that amazing? And so that's what they did. So these bells would ring six times a day, would call them in for Benedictine prayer, and then they would finally go out to work. Until one German prince decided to take that mechanical clock and put it on a tower so that all of his subjects could sync up together and work together. And a lot of sociologists believe this was the birth of capitalism and industry. So that it was actually then that Lewis Mumford, in particular, says "we went from being time keepers, to time savers, to time servers." Anybody feel like you're serving time? There's a reason they call prison serving time. And many of us feel like we're prisoners, or we're slaves to some clock, and it nags at us.

I think that's why clocks are getting uglier. Think about it. When you look at old, old clocks, they're gorgeous. Back when clocks reminded people to pray, they had like toy soldiers and gold leaf, and they were made of mahogany and beautiful. And now clocks are ugly and cheap. You get one, you throw a couple AA batteries in it, and you smash it a couple of times when you don't want to get up, so you buy a new one. Anybody like your alarm clock? Yes, exactly, see? Ugly.

And I think America is actually the last hold out to not switch over to the even uglier military time. I never want to wake up and say.. or



when we're going to bed, say Hannah its twenty three hundred hours.  
Time to go to bed.

See I think the ugliness of clocks has to do with our disgust with measuring time itself, and many of us, if not most of us, feeling like we're slaves to this clock. And so we're going to beat it. We don't have enough, so we're going to hustle, we're going to get faster. So we feel like we're always behind. Friend, you have all the time in the world. If you rest and wait, as the scriptures say, wait on the Lord, wait on the Lord, watch as He'll bring everything good into your life that you need. Have faith. Faith pleases God, not hurrying, and watch as He'll make it happen.

Many of us, we don't recognize that hurrying actually makes our experience of life go much faster than it's supposed to be. This is important. I want you to hear me here. Henry David Thoreau said "I have no time to be in a hurry." So even back then, he understood what science has recently proved to be true. What does that mean? Think about this quote real quick. I have no time to be in a hurry. What does that even mean? It doesn't make any sense in that space. I have no time to be in a hurry.

So if the older you are, I'm going to explain it, the older you are, the more you feel that the weeks, months and years go faster. So those of you who are a little older, anybody agree with that? And the older you get, the more it feels that way. And everybody has felt this way, and it was actually Pierre Genet, I think it was the 17<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> century, who

proposed the common belief that we all have, that the reason as you get older time seems to go faster, is because it's a ratio thing. When you're five, a year of your life is like 20% of your life. But when you're 50, a year of your life is 2% of your life, and therefore, a year is not that big of a deal. So most people believe that's why time is experienced quicker as we get older.

But actually science has proved that that's not true. Claudia Hammond actually was the one who showed a number of studies that have showed that has nothing to do with that at all. That it's actually not even your current experience of time, but rather your memory of time. So like if a 50-year-old and a five-year-old get on a train, it's going to, you know the three hour train ride is going to feel equally long to both of them but the memory of that train ride will feel much longer for the five-year-old. And the reason is that it's not our age that makes us experience time in a slower way, its new experiences. Hear me – its new experiences that cause you to experience life at a slower pace.

And so for the 50-year-old, he or she has probably been on a train many, many times, and all the things that she's seeing are not impressive to her. But for that five-year-old, this is his first time on a train! And he's got this ticket, and he gets like a pizza when he gets on a train, and there's all these interesting people he's never seen, he's going to a place he's never been to before, and as he looks out the window, he sees things flying by. Meanwhile that 50-year-old is on her phone.

In other words, if you want your life to slow down, you have to slow down. You want your life to slow down you have to experience life rather than zipping through it. If you have more experiences in life, your experience of life will slow down dramatically. Did you know that? And that can be something as simple as taking a new route to work. Or meeting somebody you've never met before. Or trying a restaurant you've never tried. Or taking a walk through a park you've never been through before. All those experiences slow down your life just as much as going to Paris and seeing the Eiffel Tower for the first time. New is new.

But many of us, we miss out on what would be new experiences because we're always in a hurry to get somewhere we've probably already been. It's not good to live life that way. Rather, live it slowly. Be smart and experience every second and every minute of life. Life is too good to be experienced in a hurry. I don't know about you, but I agree with Thoreau. I don't have enough time to be in a hurry. I need to slow down and enjoy the life that God has given me.

Jesus is never in a hurry. Right? You ever see Him in a hurry? He let His best friend die because He just didn't want to hurry. And then He just went and raised Him from the dead. His name was Lazarus.

It reminds me of this fairy story from France about the boy with the golden thread. I think many of us, we hurry because we want to get through our suffering, but very often that's where we grow the most and even draw closest to the Lord. So in the story of the boy with the golden

thread, there's this boy who hates his class, and he wanders into a forest, of course, and an old lady, of course, gives him a silver ball with a golden thread. And she says here's this magical ball, and this golden thread is your life. And if you're going through something in your life you want to hurry through, you just pull on the thread and you'll get through. It's like fast forwarding.

And he says great. So he takes this ball and he goes back to class, and he hates it and speeds through his class. And he's like this is amazing! And then he goes back to school the next day, and he thinks why would I even do this. I'm just going to fast forward to summer vacation. Pulls a little harder and goes right to summer vacation. And he does this his whole life. And all of his suffering and all of his mistakes he hurries through by pulling on his golden thread. And he feels like no time has gone by at all.

And he gets to the end of his life and he's now so old and he's sick and he doesn't want to pull the thread anymore because he's afraid if he pulls it, he'll die. And he wanders back into that forest, weeping, because even though he didn't suffer much in life, he didn't experience much of life. And there in the forest, he finds that old lady, and there she is: same place as she was before, and she says what did you think about my magic ball? And he says well it was a wonderful gift. I didn't suffer at all in life. But I also feel like I didn't experience it. And now here I am, an old man and I'm sick, and I feel like I missed out. And she says if I gave you

one more wish, what would you want? He said, I want you to take that golden ball back, and that golden thread, and let me experience my suffering so that I could experience the joy of living life.

Well that's how many of us are. We don't recognize that the pains and the struggles of life, just like the pains and struggles of a gym, very often cause us to grow. So instead of hurrying, recognize that whatever suffering you're going through, though very often it's not from the Lord, the Lord can be in it with you and what the devil meant for bad, God can turn it around for good. So don't be in a hurry. And don't hustle, but relax and trust the Lord, and watch all the great things that you can achieve because your eyes are open and your mind is thinking. Great things will come to you.

Life is too good to spend in a hurry! Life is too good to spend in a hurry! Don't waste your life! Experience it slowly.

So John Ortberg tells this story, he says that he went to pastor this humungous church in Chicago, it was Willow Creek, actually, at the time was the biggest church in America. And while he was there, he was just moving so fast, doing all this stuff, and doing amazing things for God. The church was growing, preaching great sermons, helping all sorts of people, but he was feeling like he was dying spiritually. And I have it here in my book. Shameless plug again, I know.

And he goes out and he's just feeling like spiritually dead. And he calls his mentor, Dallas Willard, and he says what do I need to do to be

spiritually healthy? And he says Dallas gave a long pause. He said you must ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life. Another long pause. And John says, okay, I've written that one down. He says I told him a little impatiently. That's a good one! What else is there? I had a lot of things to do and this was a long distance call, so I was anxious to cram as many units of spiritual wisdom into the least amount of time as possible.

Another long pause. There is nothing else. You must ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life.

That's why in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13, when Paul talks about love, and he says all the things that love is, what's the first thing love is on that list? Love is patient. It's patient. You want to live a loving life? You got to be patient. And flip that around. You want to experience love in your life? Friends, you want to experience love in your life? Good friendships and good marriage? Good dating? You want to be a good parent? Do you want to be a good kid to your parents? You want to be a good grandparent? You want to experience love? You want love in your life? Stop hurrying. Be patient. Relax. And it'll come to you.

The great underground church leader, Wang Ming-Dao said, "If you want to walk with God, you must do so at a walking pace."

So I'm going to encourage you guys to leave this place and stop hurrying, and experience God in every moment of your life. Practice statio. We've talked about that before. You have an appointment, don't get there on time. Get there early and sit in your car. Take a deep breath

and roll the windows down and listen to the birds and pray and prepare your heart and mind for what you're supposed to do.

Finally, a warning: if you're going to decide today to be unique by being unhurried in southern California, or wherever it is that you live, people are not going to like it. I did this as an experiment once, years ago. The first time I preached on this sermon, I said if I'm going to preach on this, I've got to practice this. So I drove slowly in the right lane and everybody hated me. And I walked slowly when I was in the city when everybody was bustling around me. And I got places early, and did things patiently.

The worst place was Starbucks where when I ordered, and back then I paid cash for everything, I gave her the money and she gave it back to me, and as she's handing me my change, she's taking the order of the guy behind me. And as I'm trying to put the money in my wallet, this man behind me gets uncomfortably close into what I thought was my personal space to order his coffee, and is literally nudging me. And all I'm trying.. we're talking four seconds to let me put my money in my wallet! And even then, had to really resist being like, I'm so sorry, I'll just like hurry. And so I just put it in, and he's like pushing me, I'm like refuse. Just go wait for my coffee over here.

You know what? It's the only way to live. You're missing out if you're not doing it. Oh, you're missing out. It's just out. You can relax,

trust the Lord. Trust the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, and relax and live unhurried.

Father, we love you. We thank you for all you've given us, and we do trust you, and we thank you, in Jesus' name, amen.