

# Don't Wait, Initiate

Sermon Title: Don't Wait, Initiate

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C. Elijah Bronner: How long you procrastinate about going to get what God says is already yours?

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(Music Playing: 00:00:26 - 00:00:53)

And now for, "Don't Wait, Initiate."

C. Elijah Bronner: Thank you for joining Brothers of the Word because brother, you need the word. We welcome all of you who are joining us by television and those of you who are joining us at brothersoftheword.com. Stay tune to today's message. We're certainly happy you tuned in to be with us today.

And I would like to read just a little humor that I came across. It says that eight men have been at a mental hospital for a period of time and are being tested to find out how they are progressing in order for them to leave the institution. The doctor in charge takes them all into a room and with a ballpoint pen draws a door on the wall. You know, I just lost my joke. I told my Brother James, I said, "That's why I don't (00:01:51) when you preach. I said this stuff can just go, "Hey, (00:01:56)." Well, fortunately, I do remember most of the joke but it was eight men at the mental institution. The doctor in charge, he decided to -- well see, like you all are getting the joke out of me losing my joke. Well, the doctor in charge, he has these eight men on the mental institution and he's trying to test them to see if they are ready to leave. Well, he takes a ballpoint pen and he goes to the wall and he draws a door on the. And he said, "I need everybody to go and see if you can get out." Seven of the men rushed to the door and anxiously tried to get out to no avail. The eighth men remain seated and the doctor turn to him curiously. He said, "Why didn't you try to get out with the others? He said, "Because I'm holding the key." I did pretty good when I have on my written joke, didn't I? See, James, that's a good point of you. If you take knowledge, it goes (00:02:55) always remember. Thank God I wrote my sermon down though.

Well, open your Bibles if you will to the Book of Joshua. I haven't gone to the (00:03:11) I trust my sermon on the late time this year. Yeah, I always have some back up notes. The Book of Joshua 18:2-3 Joshua 18:2-3. When you get there, say, "Amen". Well, let's read Verse 2 and 3 together in unison. Joshua 18:2-3. When you get there -- let's begin to read Verse 2. "And there remained among the children of Israel seven

tribes, which had not yet received their inheritance. And Joshua said unto the children of Israel, How long are ye slack to go to possess the land, which the Lord God of your fathers hath given you?"

Underline -- if you have a pen, underline the word "slack" there. These are seven tribes left after the children of Israel got into the Promise Land and there were 12 tribes. Over half of them had not possess their inheritance and so, they are sitting there and so Joshua says there "how long are ye slack?" Underline that word "slack". Slack means how long will you neglect or how long will you avoid, how long will you wait. The most translations says, "how long will you wait or put off or procrastinate in other words." How long will you procrastinate about going to get what God says is already yours? I want to read it from the message Bible. Sometimes, I just love the ways it reads because it doesn't beat around the bush. It gives it to you straight. Listen to this -- the message translations. It says, "How long are you going to sit around on your hands putting off taking possession of the land that God --

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-- the God of your ancestors has given you?" And I just want to use as a subject today, "Don't wait, initiate." Don't wait, initiate. Turn to your neighbor and say, "Don't wait, initiate." I like that. How long, how long are you going to wait? How long are you to procrastinate? How long you got to sit on your hand and not posses what God desires for you to have? Men, I like that. And it says to us today, "Is there something that you should be doing but you haven't?" Turn to your neighbor and say, "Is there something that you should be doing but you haven't?" And because you haven't, you haven't possessed what God desires for you to have because you haven't done something that you should be doing. Whether it's pursuing God given dreams. How long are you going to wait? Or some of God given goals or plans or ideas whether it's using your gifts or your talents?

This is the broader point, but I like a quote by Benjamin Franklin, he says, "Hide not your talents. They for use were made. What's a sundial in the shade?" And so, I don't care if it's our gifts or our talent that we've been procrastinating about moving on or ideas or plans or some God given dream, going after our destiny or our calling or developing ourselves. I don't care you can be little areas of life. It can be something concerning your health. How long are you going to wait? How long are you going to put it off? How long are you going to wait? Pastor James and I, we were at our God heal service this last week and we met a gentleman man who came for the first time and he had lung cancer. And the person who brought him, they were saying that they just can't get him to do right. They tried to introduce him to a (00:07:27) and things of help that can

possibly help him in his condition, help bring some recovery to him and prolong his life but she said I can't get him to do right. He looked at us and he said she is right, she can't. How long are you willing to wait? How long are willing to put it off? How long are you willing to procrastinate and do things that you should do and as a result of not doing what we should do, we end up missing out on what God desires for us to have.

See, God, is not going to force anything on you. He's not going to force anything on you. He didn't force the Promise Land on his people. They didn't (00:08:04) wander around for 40 years. God said I got all the time in the world. He let them wander around for 40 years. So, God -- He said, "I'm not going to force it on you. How are you going to wait? How long are you going wait?" And so, when they finally get in there, they still sat there. And so, Joshua got himself, he said, "Look, how long you guys are going to wait before you go and take what God has for you? What He's already given you?" So, there is something that you should be doing but you haven't and because you haven't, you haven't possessed what it is God desires for you to have. How long are you going to wait before you start saving some money? Folks, I've read a retirement package years ago that said this, "Tomorrow is closer than you think." Don't you wait until you get 80 years old and then you look around and realized that "Lord, how much I should have saved." No, it's nothing worse than getting old than realizing you're broke.

Tomorrow is closer. Turn to your neighbor and say, "Tomorrow is closer than you think. How long are you going to wait? How long are you going to wait? How long are you going to wait before you spend some time with God?" And notice that, when we don't do those things, we miss out on the benefit. Are we missing out on the peace, on the contentment and the joy in our lives because we have procrastinated about putting time in with God? How long you're going to wait before you spend some time with God? How long you're going to wait before you reconcile a relationship? If somebody has offended you, how long are you going to wait, instead of praying you for God to touch their heart, how about God touch your heart? How about you go to them and bring reconciliation and restoration? Turn your neighbor and say, "Don't wait, initiate." Don't wait, initiate. So, we end up missing out on things that God desires for us to have and to enjoy in life all because we wait around and we don't do our part.

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Listen to that message translation again, "How long are you going to sit around on your hands, putting off, taking possession of the land that God the father of your answers just have given you. How are you going to put, I mean there's some simple things you don't need to do, sometimes you

just have to clean up. How long are you going to leave the household dirty? And so, because you won't clean up, your missing out on the peace and the contentment and the joy of enjoying to clean home. There's something that a clean environment does is beneficial to you. How long you're going to wait before you pick that mess-up and clean that? How long? Turn to your neighbors and say, "Don't wait, initiate."

I had a bathroom at home that was out to use because the toilet was broken and it just create a such an inconvenience because it was right by my door when I exit out the house. So, it was so convenient to use that restroom and then head up the house but it's been out of order for so long and I would just procrastinate, I just can't put that off, get into face, put that off and as a result, it was such an inconvenience that I had to walk across to the whole side of the house to use the other bathroom and I just ask myself, "how long am I going to wait before I get this thing fixed?" And finally, I called Mr. (00:11:25). Mr. (00:11:26) then came up. And Mr. (00:11:31) then fixed it. He fixed it. And he told me, he said, "I'm not going to charge you what I would charge everybody else." I said, "Mr. (00:11:41), I should have called a long time ago." Turn to your neighbors and say, "Don't wait, initiate."

Take action on things that you need to do in life and that's what God is really saying. He said, "I had some wonderful things and store for you but you have to do your part. I can't do your part for you." That's always that God would part on the manual part. We're co-laborers with God. God can only bless what you do. He can only bless -- turn to your neighbor and say, "God can only bless what you do." And so, what is it that your hesitating on that you been waiting on. Is there a vision of what you could be or do, or become, but you haven't acted on it yet? You know you could be something more. You know, you could be better and do better but you just haven't acted on it. If not now, when? If not you, who?

Most of the time people are just sitting around. Sitting around, waiting on God. And all along God is waiting on us. God is waiting on us. And God was -- he was very, very adamant about people waiting around. He told Moses several times, "Look, I need you to get up and lead my people. How long you're going to sit around?" After Moses, then he told Joshua the same thing. And even Joshua sitting around crying, he was crying for too long. God said, "How long are you going to mourn over this?" You need to rise, it's time to get up. Don't wait, initiate. It's time to take action now.

I like something that Mark Twain said. He said, "The secret to getting ahead, is to get started." That's the secret on getting it. Just getting started. You can just get started. Don't wait, initiate. You will see this over and over in scripture. You don't have to turn it, but in the Gospel of

John Chapter 5 you'll see an interesting account there by the Pool of Bethesda. You notice that it was -- the Bible says it was full of folk waiting, full of folk waiting. And Jesus went there to a man who been waiting there 38 years, just waiting on the moving of the water. And when Christ approached him, notice what He told him to do. He says, "Get up and get moving." And that's my version. In the King James it says, "Rise up and walk."

But (00:13:57) really what he was saying, "Get up and get moving with your life. How long you're going to lay here? How long you're going to lay here? Don't wait." They were waiting for the moving of the water but Christ will say, "Why don't you try to initiate something? If you can't get up, at least row off the craft. Row towards the water, do something. Keep somebody up (00:14:18), do something, initiate something. How long you're going to lay there? Don't wait." And that's what Jesus said, "Look, rise up. He didn't even heal the man, He said just get up and walk." I've only asked him (00:14:31) to get up and walk. I don't know how, but it's Jesus told him, He didn't say, be healed. He said, "Listen, get up and walk." Because there is something healing and just giving up take an action. There's something healing in that. That's why some people are healed as they were. There are some people that -- there's something about motion that brings healing, that brings vitality, that brings life. You know, if you lay in the bed too long, you know, you can't hardly move.

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You become decrepit and to become soft and you can't even use your muscles any longer. And that's why Jesus said, "Listen, you need to get up. Get up and take off your bed and walk, rise up. How long you're going to wait? How long you're going (00:15:14) have 38 years?"

Now, the Bible does an account, Jesus talking to anybody else in that crowd. But I believe Jesus went there and healed the person who have been there the longest just to inspire everybody else. They said, "He has been here 38 years and he is walking carrying his bed. Don't go (00:15:31) and I can get up too. And I believe he did it there as an active inspiration. To say to everybody, I don't care how long you've been here, you've waited long enough for the moving of the water, why don't you initiate something by your actions of faith? Initiate. God -- you don't have to wait for a season for God to move. The Bible says, that God is present to move, present to heal at all time. You initiate something. You initiate something. And that's what Jesus wanted to convey to that crowd there. And so, he healed the man who have been lying there probably the longest so that it would inspire the others because, if they saw him walking off carrying his bed up that he'd been there 38 years, it gave them

hope and strength and courage to know that they too could get up and walk and live and enjoy and embrace life.

There's another instant same type of scenario in 2 Kings 7:3, four leprous. These four leprous was sitting outside the city of Samaria. And this is what they said, there was a famine in Samaria, there was a famine in Samaria. They said, they had been besieged and there was a famine there. There people were dying inside the cities, so these leprous decided -- they were sitting right outside the city. And so, they finally look at each other and this is what they said. They said, "Why sit we here until we die. Why are we going to sit here until we die?" And so, they said, "If we go back into the city, there's nothing but famine in there, we're going to die there." They said, "If we sit here, we're going to die." And said, "We might as well get up and take our chances going to the Syrian camp to see what's going on over there and see what they have on a grill." He said, "We might as well -- he said, "What's the worst that can happen?" He said, "The worst that can happen if they will capture us and if they capture us, they might keep us alive. And if they keep us alive, we can eat, they are famous and we can live. The worst that can happen, if they capture us and kill us, but we were going to die anyway. So, we have nothing to lose." So they realize that after they look at all the options, they had nothing to lose. And so, they said, "Now, let's get up. Why sit here and die?" So, don't wait, initiate, initiate, initiate. Turn to your neighbors and said, "Don't wait, initiate."

We learn some truths; we learn some truths from these accounts in the Bible. One truth that we pick up is that when you leave things to themselves, they don't just work themselves out, they get worse. You can't just think everything as just going to take care of yourself. No, you have to initiate something. You can't just act like you don't see it and think that it'll just go away and just burry your head in the hole. No, you have to initiate some action. You have to address the problem. Turn to your neighbors and said, address the problem.

Here's some truths I want you to get, action always leads us to solutions. Action always leads us to solutions. Actions demonstrates courage. Actions demonstrate courage, and action indicates fear. Notice, it took courage for those four leprous to get up. It took courage to go into the enemy's camp. So, action always demonstrates courage and action indicates fear. Action ignites faith. Action ignites faith and action multiplies doubt. Increase comes by action. Increase comes by actions. Say that with me, "Increase comes by action." Think about it, you never act, you never even have the possibility of benefiting from anything. See, increase comes by acting. Increase comes by acting. If I want a harvest, I have to sow for a harvest. I got to work to field for a harvest. I got to plow the field. I got to sow the seed. I got to pull up the weeds. I have to

work that if I want a harvest. I can't just sit there and say my harvest is coming. No, increase comes by action. Say that again, "Increase comes by action." This is a broader point, action is the bridge between dreams and reality. Now, I'm not sure who said that, I couldn't really locate the author so, if you want to put my name on that, that's fine.

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You know, (00:20:04) call, he told us. He says, "The first time you call somebody, you use their name. Second time you called them you say like, so and so (00:20:12). Third time you call them this way, like I always say."

Here are few questions, ask yourself this. What can I do? What can I do? How will I make a difference today? What can I make? What can I achieve? What can I create? Increase comes by action.

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