

# God Isn't in a Hurry—Learn to Respect His Speed Limit

Have you ever wanted to go to a secluded place and scream at the top of your lungs, “God, why are You taking so long?” I have. Everything about my life has seemed too slow. My last name even means “gradual.”

Some people might look at my life and say, “You are blessed and successful.” But I waited a long time to see that fruit. Nothing came quickly.

My first job lasted eight difficult years, and the pay was horrible. Then, at age 31, the ministry I worked for imploded. After that, I went through lengthy seasons of dryness. I often wanted to quit.

I watched as many of my friends seemed to achieve financial success while I felt as if I were stuck in a holding pattern. God's blessings eventually came, but not as fast as I expected. I didn't start preaching until I was 43, and I didn't enter full-time ministry until I was 52.

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Now, I'm mentoring younger Christians who are eager to be used by God. But they are also encountering delays, disappointments and total roadblocks. They are asking me tough questions:

- \*\* Why am I not married yet?
- \*\* Why does it seem like I can't get ahead financially?
- \*\* Why can't I discover God's purpose for my life?
- \*\* Will I ever have a family? And should we even try after a miscarriage?
- \*\* Why can't I develop a strong network of friends?
- \*\* What do I do with promises from God that seem like they

have expired?

Through all my delays, I've learned that we must learn to drive the speed limit on the road of life. When God wants to change us into His image, He slows down the process.

British preacher Charles Spurgeon wrote: "God is in no hurry. His purposes can be accomplished without haste, and though He would have us redeem the time because our days are evil, yet in His eternity He can afford to wait, and by His wisdom He so orders His delays, that they prove to be far better than our hurries."

God's blessings rarely happen overnight. The Lord's timing is different from yours. We want Him to answer our prayers instantly, but before He answers He may lead us into a wilderness of testing to shape our character. The apostle Peter wrote: "Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time" (1 Pet. 5:6). The "proper time" is God's time, and it rarely syncs with your schedule.

If you rush through life, anxiously pursuing your own goals, or manipulating people and circumstances to force your own desired outcomes, you will miss His best. Give God your schedule and take your hands off of it. Let Jesus reign over your hours, days, months and years. Be patient, and you will see a harvest in the end.

If God has imposed a speed limit in your life right now, slow down and enjoy the journey. Revving your engine or spinning your tires won't help. God's delays burn out the spoiled attitudes in our hearts. Adjusting your speed limit will crucify your flesh.

We see this painful process in David's life. During his long journey to become king, David ended up in an obscure town called Ziklag. Scholars aren't sure where this place was, only that it was in the remote Judean wilderness. Ziklag means "pressure," and it refers to the process of shaping molten metal. While David was in this dark place, he wrote, "My soul thirsts for you...in a dry and weary land where there is no water" (Ps. 63:1).

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David didn't lose faith while he was in the Lord's lonely school of testing. He stayed thirsty for God. He prayed constantly—knowing that he was in the fire of preparation. God was applying heat and pressure to shape him for greater responsibility. In the end, David got out of Ziklag and sat on the throne in Jerusalem. The pain of delay shaped him for the promise.

What was David's secret to enduring trials? Just as the apostle Paul and Silas sang hymns of praise in the Philippian jail, David wrote most of his psalms in the bleak wilderness, and he sang them there. He worshipped while he waited. He trusted God when there was no visible sign of a breakthrough.

Paul told the Corinthians: "For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison" (2 Cor. 4:17). God uses our delays to shape our character and spiritual fruitfulness. If we understand this deep truth, we will respond differently when He imposes a speed limit in our lives.

If you are in a holding pattern right now, don't despair. A breakthrough is coming. God is preparing you to handle the promise when it comes.

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## 5 Deceptions Keeping the Church Broke

### 1. What's so special about these ancient manuscripts?

Huff walks viewers through the three major ancient manuscripts used to analyze Mark's ending: Codex Vaticanus, Codex Sinaiticus and Codex Alexandrinus.

Here's what makes them significant:

- **Codex Vaticanus** omits verses 9–20 but leaves an entire blank column at the end of Mark—a unique feature nowhere else in the manuscript. “Nowhere in the entirety of Vaticanus’s New Testament do we ever see anything other than when the book is finished, the next book immediately starts in the following column,” Huff said. “The only place... where an entire blank column is left is at the end of Mark.”
- **Codex Sinaiticus** also omits the longer ending but features unusual scribal behavior: a change in handwriting, expanded lettering, and a highly decorative marker. “Mark’s [decorative scribal marker] is not only more decorative in style but measures 6 cm in length. It’s more than twice the size of the other decorative markers we find.”
- **Codex Alexandrinus**, the earliest to include the longer ending, also has a standout decorative flourish. “That

particular manuscript, though it does include Mark 16:9-20... differs significantly from the ending of the other gospels and is larger.”

These paratextual details—the spacing, styles and visual cues—are not random. They’re intentional.

*“Scribes and copyists tend to do things on purpose when it comes to these features,” Huff said.*

## **2. How many endings of Mark are there?**

Believe it or not, there isn’t just one disputed ending—there are five different endings found in the manuscript tradition.

According to Huff, these include:

- An abrupt ending at verse 8 (as in Vaticanus and Sinaiticus)
- A shorter alternative ending
- The longer ending (verses 9–20, most commonly printed today)
- A version in Codex Washingtonianus with an extra paragraph between verses 14 and 15
- A hybrid version combining elements of more than one ending

Of all these, only two are seriously considered by scholars:

*“What we’re looking at are either the complete longer ending or the shorter ending simply stopping at verse 8,” Huff explained.*

### 3. So, is it Scripture or not?

Huff makes his position clear. He doesn't believe verses 9–20 are original to Mark's Gospel—and, therefore, he doesn't view them as inspired Scripture.

*“I do not think Mark 16:9–20 is original. I don't think Mark wrote it and therefore I don't think it's inspired Scripture.”*

Still, he believes the ancient scribes were doing their best to preserve what they had and alert future readers to the discrepancies. In his words:

- “I think the internal evidence for its exclusion is strong.”
- “The scribes... are themselves aware of idiosyncrasies going on in the manuscripts that they are copying from.”
- “They are noting in the margins or in somewhere around the text to indicate to the reader and to subsequent copyists that something's going on here. You need to take notice.”

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Huff also points out the abrupt ending in verse 8 isn't as grammatically odd as it seems. While it ends in the Greek word 'gar' (“for”), that's not without precedent.

*“Plato actually ends his work The Republic with gar as the last word,” he noted.*

So what does this all mean for the everyday reader?

At the very least, it shows that early Christians and scribes

cared deeply about accuracy—enough to leave markers, spacing and clues for future generations to investigate.

Whether you accept the longer ending or not, the textual tradition reminds us that Scripture transmission was taken seriously, even in the uncertain moments.

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*James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.*

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## **Underwater Pyramids Found! Is This Proof of the Nephilim's Existence?**

The discussion about pyramids does not appear to be going away anytime soon.

As reported by the Daily Mail, a discovery near Taiwan just may hold the key to flipping around everything we thought we knew to be true.

This sunken “pyramid” near Taiwan is notably close to 90 feet tall and was created completely with stone. Now, tests are showing that these stones are more than 10,000 years old and that “if a civilization built this pyramid by hand, it would have taken place before this region sank under water – more than 12,000 years ago,” according to the Daily Mail.

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The facts from here just continue to get even more fascinating.

This “pyramid,” known as the Yonaguni monument is not only known as “Japan’s Atlantis,” but it is believed to potentially hold insights for a “lost tribe of humans.”

Humans?

Did humans really build this structure? Or, could these large stone structures point to something far more ancient and nefarious, such as the Nephilim?

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If the Yonaguni monument truly dates back more than 12,000 years—well before most conventional timelines for advanced human civilizations—it opens the door to profound questions about who, or what, could have built such a structure.

According to Genesis 6, the Nephilim were the offspring of the “sons of God” and the “daughters of men,” described as giants and mighty beings of old. Many biblical scholars and ancient texts suggest that these beings possessed knowledge and strength far beyond that of typical humans, potentially giving them the capability to manipulate massive stone blocks and engineer structures that have baffled modern archaeologists.

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Could the Yonaguni monument be one of many ancient megalithic sites around the world pointing to a pre-flood civilization influenced—or even constructed—by these mysterious beings?

If we entertain this possibility, the implications are staggering. The presence of a submerged, sophisticated stone structure in an area that has been underwater for thousands of years might completely challenge archaeology going forward.

So, could it be that such monuments are remnants of a world judged and destroyed, as described in the flood narrative?

Whether viewed through the lens of biblical history or as part of a broader investigation into humanity's forgotten past, this discovery could be a piece of a much larger puzzle pointing to a time when giants literally walked the earth.

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## **School's Easter Cancellation Sparks Outcry and Protests**

Tensions flared in Eastleigh, Hampshire, as Christians gathered in protest outside Norwood Primary School after it dropped long-standing Easter events, a move many believers see as part of a larger trend to erase Christianity from public life.

As reported by The Christian Post, the school's headteacher, Stephanie Mander, notified parents in a letter that this year's Easter Bonnet Parade and church service would not take place. Instead, she said students would learn about the religious significance of Easter through in-class activities and crafts. The decision, she wrote, was meant to foster an environment that respects all faiths.

That explanation didn't sit well with many local Christians, around 50 of whom showed up to peacefully demonstrate. With English flags waving and banners declaring "Jesus is King,"

protesters voiced their frustration with what they say is the steady marginalization of their faith in schools and society.

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Rev. Chris Wickland of Living Word Church in Fareham, one of the protest organizers, emphasized the event wasn't about causing trouble. Instead, he said it was about standing against the erasure of Christianity from school traditions, according to GB News.

Ukip leader Nick Tenconi took the protest a step further, reading Mander's letter through a loudspeaker and accusing the school of prioritizing diversity metrics over Christian values. He argued that these types of decisions are often motivated by funding opportunities rather than genuine inclusion.

Among the protesters was Marie Pigney, a grandmother from nearby Titchfield, who said the move to cancel Easter events was yet another example of how Christians are increasingly painted in a negative light.

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Others echoed similar concerns, saying that removing these public expressions of faith chips away at the country's Christian heritage. Protesters also handed out Easter eggs and held a "Happy Easter" banner to share their message with students and parents.

While the demonstration remained peaceful, not everyone agreed with the protest. A small group of about 10 parents staged a counter-protest near the school, accusing the demonstrators of spreading unnecessary tension. One unnamed parent defended the school's actions, claiming the parade was dropped in part due

to financial difficulties among families and a desire to accommodate a broader range of beliefs.

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Criticism of the school's decision had already been brewing online, where it was labeled "disgraceful" and "shambolic" by commenters. In response, Mander reaffirmed her stance, stating she wants to find new, inclusive ways to celebrate seasonal events moving forward.

Police were present during the protest, though no arrests were made and no incidents were reported. The demonstration concluded with a collective prayer just before the school day ended.

For many Christians in the UK, this protest marks more than a disagreement over school programming. It's a sign of growing frustration and a determination to no longer stay silent as Christian traditions are quietly erased.

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# **Christian Evangelist Warns Against Censorship in Light**

# of Crackdown on Street Preaching

A local Christian evangelist is speaking out against what he calls a troubling move by Rushmoor Borough Council, located in the United Kingdom, to limit street preaching in public spaces.

As reported by the BBC, Jamie Broadey of Aldershot expressed “shock” at the proposed injunction, warning that curbing religious expression contributes to “a weaker society.”

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The council has moved to restrict street preaching in the town centers of Aldershot and Farnborough after receiving at least 16 complaints, citing “harassment, alarm, distress and a public nuisance,” particularly from the use of loudspeakers and confrontational behavior.

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The council emphasized its position, stating, “The council would like to emphasize that we understand the sensitive nature of this issue and the legal action is not intended to prevent peaceful groups of any faith, including Christianity, from preaching, or in any way prevent freedom of speech.”

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Broadey, however, believes Christians are being unfairly singled out. “If this kind of thing was happening against the Muslims, the Muslims would be screaming Islamophobia,” he

said. "Sometimes Christians take too many punches for too long." He also warned against the dangers of censorship: "If you have a society of censorship, maybe people won't be offended but also people won't find the truth."

Rushmoor Council has requested to adjourn the hearing to allow further consultation with faith and community leaders.

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## **TikTok Star Jailed for Comment About Jesus**

A transgender Muslim TikTok influencer has been sentenced to nearly three years in prison by an Indonesian court after making a joke about Jesus' appearance, sparking international concern over freedom of expression.

Ratu Thalisa, who has nearly 450,000 followers on the platform, was convicted of blasphemy, spreading hate speech against Christianity and disrupting "public order" and "religious harmony," as reported by The Mirror US.

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The North Sumatra court sentenced Thalisa to two years and 10 months in prison and ordered to pay a fine of about \$6,200.

The comment, made in a TikTok video while responding to a user who told the TikToker to cut their hair, included a reference

to Jesus: "You should not look like a woman. You should cut your hair so that you will look like his father."

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Prosecutors had initially sought a four-year prison sentence and have already appealed the court's decision, saying the punishment was not severe enough. Amnesty International condemned the ruling as a "shocking attack on freedom of expression."

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"While Indonesia should prohibit the advocacy of religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, Ratu Thalisa's speech act does not reach that threshold," said Usman Hamid, executive director of Amnesty International Indonesia.

Thalisa was prosecuted under Indonesia's controversial Electronic Information and Transactions (EIT) law, which critics say is being misused to silence dissent.

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# Russell Brand Responds to Charges: 'Christ Be Glorified'

Comedian Russell Brand is speaking out after charges of sexual assault and rape have come out against him.

In a video posted to X, Brand says that he is willing to work with the justice system. He claims that while he was lost for years into sexual immorality, he stands on his innocence of the crimes he has been accused of, writing on the post, "Christ be glorified."

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"In those Gideon, hedonistic days, those ludicrous dark I was in that world I must have been captured by a kind of darkness," says Brand.

Brand states that he has been drug and alcohol-free for over 22 years, noting that he has a "pretty good memory of accounts," and that he "very much respects the idea of consent." With this, he also says he respects the rights of those who have filed their complaints against him.

"I have complete respect for the system of justice and will be fully cooperative knowing in my heart I'm completely innocent of these allegations," Brand says.

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Brand further says he does not believe in the statute of limitations, and says he believes in the execution of justice.

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“I think if someone committed a crime twenty years ago, thirty years ago, if a crime was committed, the person should be held accountable,” he says. “I believe in justice. I believe in integrity. I believe in truth. Why? Because I believe in God.”

Brand admits that he has a very promiscuous past, and he knows “there is an aspect to that is exploitive” because he is famous. As believers, we are reminded to pray—for truth to prevail, for healing for any who have been harmed, and for continued repentance and sanctification in Brand’s life.

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## **Delivered from Darkness: How Self-Help Books Opened the Door to Demons**

When Dayne Kamela was diagnosed with bipolar disorder, he was told it would be a lifelong battle. Doctors said medication would be his only option if he wanted to avoid spiraling into another manic episode. But what happened next defied their expectations—and transformed his life forever.

In a recent episode of Deep Believer, Kamela sat down with host Jennifer Bagnaschi to share how his struggle with mental illness opened his eyes to spiritual warfare and how Jesus Christ set him free.

# A Christian Upbringing, But No Real Relationship

Kamela grew up in a Christian home, led by a devoted mother who faithfully brought her children to church.

“My mom was a really strong believer,” he said. “She gave her life to Christ I think at like 13 at a church camp where the fire of the Lord hit her.”

Though Kamela believed in God, he said he didn’t know Jesus personally until much later.

“Up until I was 18 years old I didn’t really have a relationship with the Lord,” he said. “I believed I was saved and I believed in Jesus, I just didn’t know Him.”

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That changed after a severe biking accident—caused by drinking—that left scars on his face and soul. Broken and searching, he attended church with his mom and rededicated his life to God.

“I was like, ‘I want to know You, Lord. I want to follow You. I want to get to know who I’ve chosen to believe in ever since I can remember,’” he recalled.

Are we about to see international turmoil?

In a recent video, Christian speaker Alwyn Uys shared an urgent message which he described as “time-sensitive,” warning of turbulent times ahead, particularly in 2025. While watching a video on the current state of the economy, Uys clearly heard the words “buckle up” in his spirit, prompting him to reach out to his audience with a prophetic warning.

This warning comes at a time when international tariff shifts and potential economic instability are concerning people around the world. So, how do we prepare, and trust God to be our source of provision no matter what we may face?

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Uys began by explaining that these types of words are rare, "These kind of words are the more difficult things to communicate," he says. "They are definitely in the minority... when I receive these kind of words I know that it is urgent. I know that there is a weight to it... it's like something you can just feel it in your spirit."

The message is not one meant to incite fear, Uys emphasizes. Instead, he encourages his listeners to take it as a warning to prepare spiritually and mentally. "Buckle up for 2025," Uys says, acknowledging the difficult road ahead. He explained that the shaking and turbulence currently being experienced may intensify before any relief comes. "Do not be surprised if things get more difficult before they get easy," he says. "Things might get a little bit worse before they get better."

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Despite the serious nature of the warning, Uys reassured his audience with words of hope. Drawing from Scripture, he reminded viewers of the peace that comes through faith in Christ. Referring to John 16:33, he quotes, "In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." Uys emphasizes that, while tribulation is inevitable, "in Him you will have peace," offering comfort in times of uncertainty.

The speaker also referenced Matthew 6:33, urging Christians to focus on seeking God's kingdom first, rather than being anxious about material concerns. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all other things will be added unto you," Uys says.

In closing, Uys offers encouragement: "Don't focus on the material things... focus on Jesus. Put Him first, put God first, and His righteousness, and all the other things will fall into place." He reminds viewers that God will protect and provide for them, no matter what lies ahead.

As Uys concluded his message, he reassures his audience that though tough times are coming, Jesus will remain their steadfast source of peace and hope. "Keep your eyes on Jesus," he says.

As turbulent times approach, it's essential to hold onto faith and trust in God's protection. While challenges may increase before they get better, the peace of Christ will guide and sustain us through every trial. Keep your eyes on Jesus, and remember that He will take care of the rest.

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