

# 39: WHY DELAYS ARE NOT DENIALS IN A MAN'S FAITH JOURNEY

By John Leavy  
In Week 8: Persevering Faith

3 Min read



***“but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.” — Isaiah 40:31***

There’s a part of the trail where the path seems to stall. You’ve been walking, doing the right things, staying consistent—and yet nothing changes. No new ground gained. No clear sign you’re moving forward. Just a long stretch of waiting that feels like a delay. This is where many men begin to question the process. Isaiah 40:31 speaks directly into that moment: “They who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles...”

Waiting often feels as if God is busy elsewhere. A man wonders if he's being held back, overlooked, or forgotten, and replays his efforts, searching for missteps along the way.

The delay is not rejection—it's preparation. The trail is not always about forward movement; sometimes it's about strengthening the man who's walking it. Waiting exposes impatience, control, and misplaced expectations. It brings to the surface what a man usually keeps buried—his need to move, to fix, to produce results on his own timeline. What's often missed is this—God's timing isn't just different, it's intentional.

While nothing seems to be happening on the surface, much is happening beneath it. Strength is being renewed, perspective is shifting, and endurance is being forged for the journey ahead. The trail is not stalled; it is shaping the man for what comes next.

## **APPLICATION**

Waiting well requires a different kind of discipline. Isaiah 40:31 doesn't describe passive inactivity—it describes renewal. That means a man is not sitting still; waiting is not inactivity; he's being strengthened while he waits.

What's often left unsaid is how easily waiting turns into frustration when a man measures progress only by visible results. He starts to grab the wheel and take control because he assumes delay equals potential failure. But forcing movement often leads off the trail, not further down it.

God's timing doesn't operate on a man's schedule. The question is not "How do I speed this up?" but "How do I stay aligned while I wait?" That shift changes the posture entirely. It moves a man from control to trust, from urgency to steadiness.

It leads him back to daily faithfulness—time in the Word, steady prayer, and obedience in what's already clear. These are not dramatic steps, but they are strengthening ones. Growth that lasts is rarely rushed. And, like any long stretch on the trail, pacing matters. To use an exercise illustration here, men rarely see visible results the first week back at the gym.

Brotherhood plays a role here, too. Other men help remind you that waiting is not wasted. They help keep you grounded when your expectations start to outpace reality. Staying steady in a waiting season positions a man to move with strength when the time is right.

## **LIVE IT OUT**

Identify where you feel delayed and surrender the timeline to God. Stay faithful in what's already in front of you. Talk it through with another man instead of forcing movement. Strength is being built right now. Stay steady. When the trail opens, you'll be ready to move.

## ***PRAY THIS...***

***“Father, help me to surrender to the delays in front of me that I might lean on Your timing.”***

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Practice builds the man.***

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