



Session #7

Delay is the Half-Brother of Disobedience

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Breaking the Ice:

What are some areas of your life in which you procrastinate?

- Watch opening video presentation

Exploration:

Read: *1 Samuel 14:1-3*

In these verses, note where Saul was (verse 2). What does this say about his possible tendency to delay?

Note the following about the ephod mentioned in verse 3:

The ephod was a white garment worn by the priests that was attached to the body by a belt. A breastplate worn over the ephod had pouches that were used by the priests to carry certain devices used in determining the will of God, i.e., the Urim and Thummim, or sacred lots. See note on Ex. 28:5–13. Apparently, Saul chose not to use it for seeking the Lord's will.¹

How could procrastination affect what God has called us to do or our seeking what it is God wants us to do?

¹ MacArthur, J., Jr. (Ed.). (1997). *The MacArthur Study Bible* (electronic ed., p. 396). Nashville, TN: Word Pub.

Read: 1 Samuel 14:4-10

Note in verse 4 the pass took them between sharp rock cliffs, one named Bozez (slippery) and one named Seneh (thorny). What do these names indicate about the emotional objections to proceeding? In what ways are we stopped by fear?

How does Jonathan's view of God's help motivate Him to get out from under the shade tree and approach the enemy? How can it motivate us?

Read: 1 Samuel 14:11-15

How did God "verify" He was helping to defeat the Philistines? If we move forward with His leading, can we always expect His blessing? Discuss.

Read: 1 Samuel 14:16-23

Why is it only now that Saul begins to seek God's leading? Why was it obvious He needed no more information from God and ordered the priest to "withdraw his hand" (covered in opening video)? Do we ever miss the obvious signs of God's leading? Why?

Bringing it Home

There are times we need to get out from under the shade tree, stop calculating the odds to stop delaying our seeking the Lord's leading and do what God has called us to do.

Bottom Line

When God gives the opportunity we must act decisively for Him.