

When to Move Quickly and When to Move Slowly

BY RICK WARREN

Your life has an ebb and flow. Sometimes God wants you to move quickly, but sometimes he wants you to slow down. Ecclesiastes 8:6 says, *“There is a right time and a right way to do everything”* (GNT).

How do you know when you should move quickly?

1 Move quickly when God tells you to do something.

Don't say, “I'll think about it.” Instead, follow the example of the disciples who *“immediately left their nets”* when Jesus said, *“Follow Me”* (Mark 1:17-18 NKJV).

2 Move quickly when you need to ask or offer forgiveness.

Don't hold onto guilt or resentment. Matthew 5:23-24 says, *“If you enter your place of worship and, about to make an offering, you suddenly remember a grudge a friend has against you, abandon your offering, leave immediately, go to this friend and make things right”* (The Message).

3 Move quickly when you feel tempted.

First Timothy 6:11 says, *“Run from all these evil things”* (NLT). That means *move fast*. There's no such thing as casually walking away from a temptation.

4 Move quickly when you've made a promise to God.

Have you made a promise to share your faith with somebody or to read through the Bible? Ecclesiastes 5:4 says, *“When you make a promise to God, keep it as quickly as possible”* (GNT).

5 Move quickly when you have the opportunity to do good.

Don't procrastinate in helping others. *“Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act”* (Proverbs 3:27 NIV).

6 Move quickly when God offers you salvation.

Maybe you've already accepted Jesus as your Savior. Or maybe you still haven't stepped across that line. Second Corinthians 6:2 says, *“Now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation”* (ESV).

How do you know when you should move slowly?

1 Move slowly when you don't have all the facts.

People who act impulsively often end up going the wrong way. Proverbs 19:2 says, *“Desire without knowledge is not good, and whoever makes haste with his feet misses his way”* (ESV).

2 Move slowly when you're hurt or angry.

When we get upset easily over a matter, it can cause all kinds of problems in our relationships. Proverbs 14:29 says, *“Whoever is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who has a hasty temper exalts folly”* (ESV).

3 Move slowly when making a major decision.

When you carefully consider the direction of your life, it can save you a lot of heartache later on. Proverbs 4:26, *“Ponder the path of your feet; then all your ways will be sure”* (ESV).

4 Move slowly when you're waiting for a seed you planted to grow.

Whatever you sow you will reap, whether it's a seed of generosity, a seed of patience, or a seed of kindness. There is always a delay between planting and harvest. Ecclesiastes 3:1-2 says, *“For everything there is a season . . . A time to plant and a time to harvest”* (NLT).