

Psalms 119:60

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy commandments.

Analysis

I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy commandments. The pairing **made haste** (חָשַׁט, chashti) and **delayed not** (הַתִּמְהַמֵּה אַל, velo hitmahmahti) creates emphatic urgency—no procrastination, no hesitation. Following verse 59's repentance, this verse demonstrates that genuine conviction produces immediate obedience. The verb **delayed** (הַמָּהָה, mahah) is used of Lot's hesitation to flee Sodom (Genesis 19:16), illustrating the danger of spiritual dithering.

This urgency contrasts worldly procrastination—Felix's 'convenient season' that never came (Acts 24:25), Agrippa's 'almost persuaded' (Acts 26:28). The gospel demands immediate response: 'Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts' (Hebrews 3:15). Delayed obedience is disobedience. Speed in obeying God demonstrates that faith is real and alive.

Historical Context

Israel's history warned against delayed obedience. The generation that refused immediate entry into Canaan wandered 40 years in wilderness (Numbers 14). Saul's delayed obedience in destroying Amalek cost him the kingdom (1 Samuel 15). In contrast, Abraham's immediate willingness to sacrifice Isaac demonstrated genuine faith (Genesis 22). Jesus's parables often warned against presuming on time—the foolish virgins, the rich farmer storing crops.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 – Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 – Judging others

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What specific obedience to God's Word have you been postponing, and what rationalizations sustain the delay?
2. How can you cultivate the spiritual reflex of immediate obedience when conviction comes, before rationalization sets in?
3. In what areas of life might 'delayed obedience' actually be disobedience disguised as prudence?

Interlinear Text

מִצְוֹתֶיךָ לְשֵׁמֶר הַתְּמִימָמָת הַתִּי וְלֹא כַּשְׁתִּי
I made haste H3808 and delayed H4102 not to keep H8104 thy commandments H4687

Additional Cross-References

Ecclesiastes 9:10 (Parallel theme): Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

Galatians 1:16 (Parallel theme): To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:

Proverbs 27:1 (Parallel theme): Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.

