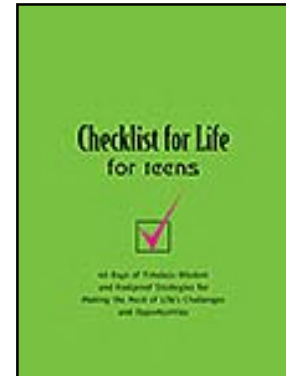


## Instant Gratification, “Must Haves...”

So much is possible in this age of where time is measured in Nanos ( $10^{-9}$ ), information in Tetra, and currency (or debt) in trillions; and though the galaxies remain boundless, some units of measure continue to expand beyond our comprehension or capacity. But what does this have to do with “instant gratification”?

Among my recent books was a rather small one that presents a perspective of these radical (exponential) changes in our culture; that such accelerated change – over a very short period of the earth’s estimated age – cannot continue. The inertia that has driven or allowed such change must eventually give way to the limits that are insurmountable. Well, this same “theory” may apply to individual and national consumption as well; or in other words, we cannot continue as the world’s disproportionate consumer and squanderer of resources. **Eventually, something’s got to give....**



Jesus recognized that money – and the things purchased with money – could entrap or enslave humans. Remember, that Jesus said *no one can serve two masters...* God and money. He recognized the pitfall of prosperity; that the more you have, the more you want, was ever present and poised to enslave his creation. Remember that Satan offered Jesus “the world” if He would bow down and worship him; and coveting (the desire for more things) is one of the Ten Commandments; and that *the lust of the eyes* is one of three primary sources of sin.

All that said, the fact is that man (or humans) are forever falling into the fallacy that having more will bring satisfaction. It’s true that to have the basics is necessary to sustain life, but for some folks, this “necessity” is a sliding scale with opportunity if not actuality for growth! What Americans consider necessary might be a “king’s ransom” to much of the world’s population. **The problem with wanting more is that, well, you always want more...**

King Solomon has more than you can ever imagine; he was gilded up to the crown of his head with crowns and jewels. Ironically, this wealth was not enough; indeed, he writes of the futility of human life in Ecclesiastes. His disposition and discourse offers wisdom to the reader; that the world cannot offer enough to satisfy the soul...surely there must be more?

**Turning to you, the individual (and potentially, a teen), what about this “instant gratification” or, similarly, what about this insatiable appetite for more?**

## Instant Gratification, “Must Haves...”

From the *Checklist for Life*, the following:

The demand for instant gratification also can short-circuit your faith. God has a plan for your life, and he will unfold it as you trust in him. But you also have to trust His timing, and that can mean a whole lot of waiting as **He works on bringing you to a place of maturity where He can fulfill His plan.**

In our society and culture, personal restraint or reserve is hardly the norm; especially, when you live by such commercialized mantras and philosophies that promote self-fulfillment, gratification and all sundry of indulgence – even at the other’s expense. I like the possibility of instant coffee – although I would much prefer to wait for the *real article*. **The problem with instant gratification is that, well, it is only for an instant...and then it’s gone.**

Sometimes we are forced to wait; sometimes boundaries and constraints give rise to reality...over desire; and maybe these limits are a good thing...by teaching us to wait, be patience, and trust God by faith...

### Homework:

Please try to do these:

- Trust God to provide everything you need
- Learn to cool down and wait on God when you feel you have to have a certain thing
- Acknowledge your need to accept deferred gratification
- Rely on God’s timing rather than your own
- Find contentment in what you already have
- Bring impatience under control...as possible

Things to Do:

- ✓ Ask God to help you resist the influence of the culture in which you live
- ✓ Make a list of your genuine needs and hand the list over to God
- ✓ Take an inventory of what you already have...
- ✓ Make a list of the things you think you want, cut it in half, then half again to reduce the list to those things you really want
- ✓ Establish a specific waiting period, such as a week or a month, before you buy anything that is not essential.
- ✓ Give the clothes you no longer want to wear to a worthwhile charity.

Remember that: **unbridled gratification produces unbridled desire**