

## Instant or Delayed Gratification?

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by Wayne Goff

We all know that one of the sure signs of maturity is the ability to accept something of greater value **later** than something of lesser value **now**. We smile at a small child who turns down a \$50 savings bond for an ice cream cone. "Poor child," we think to ourselves, "He has no idea what he has just missed out on!" Then again, the apostle Paul said, "*When I was a **child**, I spoke as a **child**, I understood as a **child**, I thought as a **child**, but when I became a man, I put away childish things*" (1 Cor. 13:11). So we can kindly excuse the child.

But what about us today? It appears to me that grown adult Americans are about as immature as that child! We want **instant gratification** in everything, and I see fewer people willing to sacrifice in order to have something greater down the road. We go to a "fast food" restaurant because we can't wait. We post on "Facebook" and look to see how many "likes" we got. We turn on our TVs to turn our nose up at hundreds of channels of entertainment. We send out "e-mails" because they are so much faster than "snail mail." And on and on the illustrations could go.

In this life, there's no virtue in waiting for your food, or sending out slower letters by the postal system. Slow isn't always better. But when it affects our quality of life because we don't want to pursue a higher education, or learn a trained craft for a career job, then we need to stop, think a minute, and ask ourselves if we haven't gotten just a little too dependent on the "instant gratification." How many young people live at home with their parents because they don't want to work, sacrifice time, energy and effort to get out on their own? From what I see in today's young people, there is far too much dependency on Mom and Dad to carry them along, and immaturity is tolerated. It's a sad state of affairs when Americans who have been blessed with **so much**, can accomplish **so little!**

With all of these earthly problems pertaining to...

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