



# TOO LATE

*“Obedience Delayed is Destiny Denied.”*

Hebrews 3:15 (NKJV) - “Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”

## Introduction

**Based on a true story that took place in; Kharkov, Ukraine.**

A middle-aged man stormed into the doctor’s office, his rugged appearance and impatient tone making it clear - **he didn’t have time for this visit**. A minor injury on his finger was interfering with his work, and he wanted a **quick fix**. But as the doctor unwrapped the dirty rag, concern filled his face. The wound was infected - severely. **“It needs to be amputated,”** the doctor warned. The man scoffed, rejecting the advice. **He had handled worse before**. He walked out, convinced he knew better.

Days later, he returned, exhausted and in pain. **“Fine, take the finger,”** he relented. **But it was too late**. The infection had spread, and now **his entire hand** needed removal. Again, he refused. A week later, he was rushed to the hospital, barely conscious. His wife pleaded, desperate for the doctor to do anything to save him. But the doctor’s words were final: **“It’s too late.”**

A simple wound, ignored, had cost him everything. What could have been a **small sacrifice** - a single finger - turned into an **irreversible loss**. Just like **sin, when left unchecked, it spreads, consuming more than we ever imagined. The time to act is now before it’s too late.** Isaiah 1:5-6 (NLT) *“Why do you continue to invite punishment? Must you rebel forever? Your head is injured, and your heart is sick. You are battered from head to foot- covered with bruises, welts, and infected wounds—without any soothing ointments or bandages.”* This reflects how ignoring a wound - both physical and spiritual - can lead to complete destruction. Be careful then, dear brothers and sisters. Make sure that your own hearts are not evil and unbelieving, turning you away from the living God. You must warn each other every day, while it is still ‘today,’ so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God. **Like**

**the man who dismissed the doctor's warnings, people can become hardened by sin when they delay action.** Proverbs 29:1 (NLT) - "Whoever stubbornly refuses to accept criticism will suddenly be destroyed beyond recovery."

## **A Sad Condition: What Happens When We Ignore the Warnings of Sin?**

- 1. Spiritual Disease - Romans 3:23 (NLT) – “For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.”** Just as the driver in the story dismissed his small wound, many people overlook sin, thinking it is insignificant. However, sin is like a disease that infects every person. The Bible makes it clear that no one is exempt from sin—it affects every human being.
- 2. Spiritual Death- Romans 6:23 (NLT) – “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.”** The driver thought his wound was minor and refused treatment. But over time, the infection spread, leading to an irreversible consequence—death. Similarly, the Bible teaches that the ultimate consequence of sin is spiritual death, which means eternal separation from God. **There are two types of death mentioned in Scripture:**
  - Physical Death – The natural end of life.
  - Spiritual Death – Eternal separation from God in hell (Revelation 20:15).
- 3. Spirit of Delay and Spiritual Negligence- 2 Corinthians 6:2 (NLT) – “For God says, ‘At just the right time, I heard you. On the day of salvation, I helped you.’ Indeed, the ‘right time’ is now. Today is the day of salvation.”** The driver ignored the doctor’s warnings, believing he had time to fix the problem later. But waiting cost him everything. Many people treat their relationship with God the same way—they assume they have time to repent later, only to realize too late that their hearts have hardened. Jesus calls everyone to repentance today because tomorrow is not guaranteed.

**Jesus is the Only Cure for Sin- John 14:6 (NLT) – “Jesus told him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.’”**

The driver sought help when it was too late. Many people try to fix their spiritual condition through human efforts, religious rituals, or personal strength. However, only Jesus can cleanse us from sin. **When we confess our sins and trust in Christ, He forgives us completely and grants us eternal life.**

**The Final Warning – Hell is Real - Revelation 20:15 (NLT) – “And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.”**

The Bible describes the second death as eternal separation from God in a place of torment. Just as the driver’s negligence led to his death, ignoring the message of salvation leads to eternal loss. **However, God offers eternal life through Christ. We must decide whether to accept or reject His gift.**

## **Conclusion: The Choice is Yours**

The doctor in the story tried to save the driver, but he refused help until it was too late. Jesus offers salvation freely to all who will accept it. Will you receive His invitation, or will you reject His love?

There is a call to action: If you have not yet accepted Christ, **today is the day of salvation** (2 Corinthians 6:2). If you have accepted Christ, share this message with others who may be ignoring the warnings.

This is a divine warning - an urgent call to wake up and turn away from sin before irreversible consequences take place. Throughout Scripture, God has sent warnings through His prophets, urging people to repent and realign their lives with His will. Ignoring these warnings leads to destruction, just as the man in our story ignored medical advice until it was too late.

- Hebrews 3:15 (NLT) – “Remember what it says: ‘Today when you hear his voice, don’t harden your hearts as Israel did when they rebelled.’”
- Ezekiel 18:30-31 (NLT) – “Repent, and turn from your sins. Don’t let them destroy you! Put all your rebellion behind you, and find yourselves a new heart and a new spirit.”