

Pastor's Corner: "Delaying The Game"

August 2024

Hello, Bethel Family!

The countdown to college football is on! In less than 30 days, we'll be donning our garnet and black or orange and purple, cheering on our teams, and inevitably becoming Monday morning quarterbacks. Conversations before and after service will buzz with game highlights and play-by-play analysis. We even adjust our schedules to ensure nothing interferes with the big games, marking each one on our calendars.

Now, imagine if we brought the same level of excitement and dedication to our church life and our journey with Jesus. **James 2:26 says, "For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead."** I like to replace "works" with "action"—**faith without action is dead.**

In football, we see penalty flags thrown for "delaying the game." This happens when players love to stay in the huddle, talking about the play, discussing the play, dissecting the play, and critiquing the play, but never actually running the play.

How often do we find ourselves doing the same in our spiritual lives? We might say, "One of these days," but in God's kingdom, action is crucial.

Let's not be content with merely talking about our faith. Let's put it into action. Let's not delay the game; let's run the play.

Whether it's serving others, sharing our faith, or living out God's love, let's make sure our faith is active and alive. As former football coach and announcer John Madden once said, "**The road to easy street goes through the sewer.**" It might not always be easy, but acting is the only way to truly live out our faith.

Here are some steps we can take to put our faith into action: volunteer for community outreach programs, participate in church ministries, join a Bible study group, or simply lend a helping hand to a neighbor in need.

Commit to making our church a beacon of God's love and grace by actively engaging in these opportunities. Remember, it's not about perfection but progress—every small act of kindness and service brings us closer to living out our faith authentically.

Let's hit the field for Jesus!

In Christ,

+Pastor Ben