

HOWEVER...

(THE SPACE BETWEEN HEARING AND DOING)

A. **BACKGROUND**

- There is a dangerous place many of us men live in. It is not the place of rebellion, nor is it always the place of ignorance. It is the place between revelation and response. The place where a man knows what he should do, senses what God has placed before him, even feels conviction in his spirit... however, he never moves.
- Many men are not destroyed because they lack gifting, intelligence, opportunity, or even spiritual insight. Many men remain stuck because they hesitated in the moment that required movement.
- Throughout Scripture, there are men who stood at the threshold of destiny. Some moved beyond “however,” and others became trapped inside it. The difference was not always revelation. Often, the difference was response.
- The word “however” is small, but it carries enormous spiritual weight:
 - “I know God spoke... however...”
 - “I know I need to change... however...”
 - “I know I should forgive... however...”
 - “I know I should start... however...”
 - “I know this idea has been in my spirit for years... however...”
- Every man eventually encounters a “however” moment. A moment where fear wrestles with faith, comfort wrestles with calling, and logic wrestles with obedience. What a man does after “however” often determines the trajectory of his life.
- The tragedy is that some men die carrying visions they never built, prayers they never pursued, businesses they never started, ministries they never stepped into, conversations they never had, and healing they never allowed themselves to receive.
- Today’s encouragement is not merely about hearing from God. It is about what happens after the hearing. It is about the dangerous space between knowing and doing.

B. **CALEB – WHEN FAITH MOVES DESPITE THE GIANTS**

Text: Numbers 13:30; Numbers 14:6–9

“Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it.”

- Caleb stood in the same environment as the other spies. He saw the same giants, the same fortified cities, and the same overwhelming obstacles. Yet Caleb arrived at a completely different conclusion.
- The difference was not eyesight. The difference was perspective.
- Ten spies interpreted the giants as proof they should retreat. Caleb interpreted the giants as proof that the land was worth possessing. While others focused on the size of the opposition, Caleb focused on the size of God’s promise.
- Faith does not deny difficulty. Faith simply refuses to allow difficulty to become final authority.

- Many men are currently standing before “giants”:
 - financial pressure,
 - fear of failure,
 - lack of confidence,
 - uncertainty about the future,
 - fear of embarrassment,
 - responsibility toward family,
 - previous disappointments.
- Some men have carried ideas for years but have convinced themselves that the timing is wrong, the market is crowded, or the risk is too high. However, the real issue is often not lack of opportunity, but fear disguised as wisdom.

Modern Parallel – James Dyson

- James Dyson spent five years building over 5,000 failed prototypes before finally succeeding. To everyone else, he looked foolish. However, Dyson refused to interpret failure as defeat.
- He shifted his perspective. He stopped seeing himself as a failing inventor and began to see himself as a man learning thousands of ways that did not work.
- Eventually, the breakthrough came.
- Many men quit after prototype number three. Caleb teaches us that breakthroughs often belong to the man who keeps walking after everyone else stops.

Application

- Brothers, some of you are one act of obedience away from a completely different season of life.
- There are businesses that were never built because the first attempt failed. There are ministries that never started because one person criticised the vision. There are dreams sitting dormant because fear convinced you that delay meant denial.
- Caleb understood something powerful: *God rarely removes the giants before the movement. Often, He waits to see whether the man will move despite them.*

Challenge

- Stop interpreting opposition as proof that you should quit.
- Some things in your life are waiting on movement. Not perfection. Not certainty. Movement.
- Ask yourself honestly: *What have I buried because it became difficult?*

C. ABIGAIL – WHEN WISDOM REFUSES TO DELAY

Text: 1 Samuel 25

- Abigail enters Scripture during a moment of potential disaster. Her husband Nabal had acted foolishly toward David, and destruction was approaching the household.
- Everyone else delayed. Abigail moved.
- She did not wait for conditions to become comfortable. She recognised that wisdom sometimes requires immediate action.
- There are moments where hesitation becomes dangerous. Delay can destroy what discernment was trying to protect.

- Abigail teaches us that mature people do not merely identify problems. They respond to them.
- Many men see warning signs in their lives long before collapse happens:
 - emotional distance in marriage,
 - unhealthy habits,
 - spiritual dryness,
 - financial instability,
 - unmanaged anger,
 - declining health,
 - unresolved wounds.
- However, many men convince themselves they still have more time.
- One of the most dangerous things a man can say is: *"I'll deal with it later."*

Modern Parallel – Alice Marie Johnson

- Alice Marie Johnson was sentenced to life in prison. By every human measure, her story appeared finished. However, she refused to allow her environment to define her identity.
- Instead of surrendering to bitterness, she chose purpose. She mentored others, developed herself, and carried herself as a woman who still believed her life mattered.
- Eventually, her story reached the outside world, leading to her release and later becoming part of criminal justice reform efforts.
- Her environment did not dictate her response.

Application

- Some men are waiting for motivation before they move. Abigail teaches us that mature action often comes before emotional comfort.
- Wisdom understands that procrastination can lead to agreement with destruction.
- The marriage will not heal itself. The discipline will not build itself. The prayer life will not revive itself. The business will not launch itself.

Challenge

- What have you been postponing that requires action now?
- Do not allow delay to become the reason something precious collapses.
- Ask yourself honestly: *What have I buried because it became difficult?*

D. THE RICH YOUNG RULER – WHEN REVELATION IS NOT ENOUGH

Text: Mark 10:17–22

- The rich young ruler had something many people desire: direct access to Jesus. He received revelation clearly and personally.
- Jesus exposed the one thing preventing full surrender. However, the man walked away sorrowfully because he could not release what controlled him.
- This story is powerful because the man was not hostile to Jesus. He was interested, respectful, moral, and sincere. However, sincerity without surrender still leaves a man unchanged.
- Many men love inspiration:
 - sermons,
 - podcasts,
 - books,
 - motivational content,

- conferences,
- wisdom conversations.
- However, inspiration without application becomes spiritual entertainment.
- Knowledge alone does not transform a man. Applied truth does.

Modern Parallel – Ronald Wayne

- Ronald Wayne was given a 10% share in Apple during its formation. However, fear of risk caused him to walk away from the opportunity.
- He chose temporary security over long-term possibility.
- Years later, that decision became one of the greatest missed opportunities in modern history.
- The tragedy was not a lack of access. The tragedy was a lack of courage in the moment that mattered.

Application

- Brothers, some men are praying for opportunities they would not currently have the courage to steward.
- Fear often disguises itself as practicality. Sometimes the issue is not a lack of revelation but an unwillingness to fully trust God beyond comfort.

Challenge

- What is currently controlling your obedience?
- Some men lose their future trying too hard to protect their comfort.

E. KING AGRIPPA – WHEN “ALMOST” BECOMES A TRAGEDY

Text: Acts 26:28

“Then Agrippa said to Paul, “Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?”

- King Agrippa heard one of the greatest gospel presentations ever delivered by the Apostle Paul. He was moved emotionally and intellectually.
- However, he stopped at “almost.”
- There are few words more tragic than “almost”:
 - Almost changed.
 - Almost obedient.
 - Almost healed.
 - Almost committed.
 - Almost surrendered.
 - Almost disciplined.
 - Almost transformed.
- The danger with “almost” is that it creates the illusion of movement while a man remains unchanged.

Modern Parallel – Dick Rowe

- Dick Rowe, a talent scout at Decca Records, rejected The Beatles because he believed guitar groups were fading out of relevance.

- He chose familiarity over possibility. He trusted current trends over emerging vision.
- That decision permanently attached his name to one of history's greatest missed opportunities.
- Some opportunities only arrive once.

Application

- Brothers, there are seasons where hesitation costs more than failure ever would.
- Some men spend years waiting for certainty while destiny quietly moves past them.
- Faith has never required full visibility. It has always required trust.

Challenge

- Do not allow "almost" to become the summary of your life.
- At some point, every man must decide whether he will remain in contemplation or finally move into conviction.

F. CONCLUSION – WHAT IS YOUR “HOWEVER”?

- Every story today centres around one moment:
 - Caleb moved.
 - Abigail moved.
 - The rich young ruler retreated.
 - Agrippa hesitated.
- The difference was not intelligence. It was not gifting. It was not an opportunity. The difference was in response.
- Brothers, what is your “however”?
 - The business idea?
 - The healing conversation?
 - The apology?
 - The discipline?
 - The prayer life?
 - The application?
 - The ministry?
 - The forgiveness?
 - The change?
 - The obedience?
- Some of you already know exactly what God has been dealing with you about.
- The question is no longer: *“Did God speak?”*
- The question now is: *“What will you do after however?”*
- Some things in your life will not change through intention alone. They will change through movement.
- Heaven rarely reveals the entire staircase. Most times, God reveals the next step.
- Today is not about perfection. It is about movement.

Do not die in the land of, however.