

Question About Whether It's Possible That Our Unbelief Can Prevent or Delay Jesus' Return

By Pastor Ed Anderson

Is it possible that our unbelief etc. can prevent or delay the return of the Lord Jesus?

Answer:

Yes — according to Scripture the return of the Lord Jesus **can be delayed** by the **unbelief, disobedience, and spiritual neglect** of His people. This is not about God being slow or unsure of His plans, but rather about God working **in partnership with His people** to fulfill the Great Commission and prepare the world for Christ's return.

Let's look at this from **the Bible**.

Biblical Evidence That Human Response Can Affect the Timing of Christ's Return

1. 2 Peter 3:9,12 – We Can Hasten or Delay the Coming

“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise... but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” (*2 Peter 3:9*)

“Looking for and **hastening** the coming of the day of God...” (*2 Peter 3:12, NKJV*)

- These verses show that God's delay is **not a broken promise**, but an **act of mercy**, waiting for repentance.
- Verse 12 explicitly says we can **hasten** (Greek: *speudō*) the coming of the Lord, implying our actions (or inaction) can influence the timeline.

2. Matthew 24:14 – The Gospel Must First Go to All Nations

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and **then** the end will come.” (*Matthew 24:14*)

- The timing of the Second Coming is linked to the **global proclamation of the gospel**.
- If God's people delay in fulfilling this mission, **the return of Jesus is also delayed**.

Summary

Truth	Support
Jesus' return can be delayed	2 Peter 3:9, Matthew 24:14
We can "hasten" His coming	2 Peter 3:12

Final Thought

God is waiting for a generation who will say **yes to His calling**, fully reflect Christ, and share the gospel to the ends of the earth. When that happens, **He will come**.