



FROM Slothfulness *to* Success



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FROM SLOTHFULNESS TO SUCCESS

A GUIDE TO FERVENCY
AND DILIGENCE

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Symptoms of Slothfulness in the Bible

The spirit of slothfulness can manifest in various ways, and the Bible provides insight into specific symptoms that characterize this attitude. Here are some of the key symptoms of slothfulness, along with corresponding scriptures:

1. Procrastination and Inaction

- Scripture: Proverbs 6:9-10 (NIV): “How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest—”
- Description: The sluggard often delays action, choosing comfort over responsibility. This procrastination can lead to missed opportunities and a lack of productivity.

2. Lack of Initiative

- Scripture: Proverbs 10:4 (NIV): “Lazy hands make for poverty, but diligent hands bring wealth.”
- Description: A slothful person lacks the initiative to take action or pursue goals. This symptom reveals itself in a reluctance to work hard or engage in tasks that require effort.

3. Constant Craving Without Action

- Scripture: Proverbs 21:25 (NIV): “The sluggard’s desire will be the death of him, because his hands

refuse to work.”

- Description: The sluggard may have many desires and dreams but fails to act on them. This craving for more, without the willingness to put in the necessary effort, leads to frustration and unfulfilled potential.

4. Excuses and Rationalization

- Scripture: Proverbs 22:13 (NIV): “The sluggard says, ‘There’s a lion outside! I’ll be killed in the public square!’”

- Description: Slothfulness often comes with a tendency to make excuses to avoid work. The sluggard may exaggerate dangers or obstacles to justify their inactivity.

5. Discontent and Complaining

- Scripture: Proverbs 19:15 (NIV): “Laziness brings on deep sleep, and the shiftless go hungry.”

- Description: A slothful person may express dissatisfaction with their situation while failing to take steps to improve it. Their laziness leads to unfulfilled needs and a cycle of discontent.

6. Spiritual Stagnation

- Scripture: Hebrews 6:12 (NIV): “We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.”

- Description: Slothfulness can manifest in spiritual life through a lack of growth, prayer, and engagement

in community. This stagnation can lead to a weakened faith and disconnect from God.

7. Neglect of Responsibilities

- Scripture: Proverbs 24:30-34 (NIV): “I went past the field of a sluggard, past the vineyard of someone who has no sense; thorns had come up everywhere, the ground was covered with weeds, and the stone wall was in ruins. I applied my heart to what I observed and learned a lesson from what I saw: A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest—and poverty will come on you like a thief and scarcity like an armed man.”
- Description: This passage illustrates how neglecting responsibilities can lead to deterioration and chaos. The sluggard’s failure to tend to their duties results in a lack of order and provision.

Conclusion

The spirit of slothfulness is a multifaceted issue that can lead to significant personal and communal consequences. The symptoms outlined above provide a framework for identifying slothfulness in oneself or others, emphasizing the importance of diligence and responsibility as taught in Scripture. By recognizing these symptoms, individuals can take proactive steps to combat slothfulness, cultivate diligence, and align their lives more closely with their God-given purpose.

The biblical wisdom found in Proverbs and other scriptures serves as a guide for fostering a spirit of hard work, initiative, and faithfulness in all areas of life.

Symptoms of Slothfulness

1. Lack of Participation: Members are consistently absent from services and church activities.
2. Procrastination: Delaying responsibilities and commitments within the church.
3. Apathy: Indifference towards spiritual growth and church matters.
4. Inconsistent Attendance: Sporadic presence at services and events.
5. Minimal Engagement: Limited involvement in worship, prayer, and church functions.
6. Neglect of Spiritual Disciplines: Rarely practicing prayer, fasting, or Bible reading.
7. Lack of Initiative: Waiting for others to lead or take action.
8. Decline in Volunteering: Few members volunteering for church tasks or ministries.
9. Poor Time Management: Difficulty prioritizing church commitments.

10. Excuses for Non-Involvement: Frequent justifications for not participating.
11. Resistance to Change: Reluctance to embrace new church initiatives.
12. Low Energy in Worship: Passive or unenthusiastic participation in worship.
13. Minimal Fellowship: Avoiding social interactions with other church members.
14. Lack of Vision: Absence of personal or collective goals for spiritual growth.
15. Complacency: Satisfaction with the status quo, no desire for improvement.
16. Irregular Giving: Inconsistent financial contributions to the church.
17. Avoidance of Leadership Roles: Reluctance to accept positions of responsibility.
18. Discouragement: Feeling overwhelmed or defeated by spiritual challenges.
19. Neglect of Family Spiritual Life: Not fostering spiritual growth at home.
20. Poor Communication: Lack of engagement in church discussions or feedback.

Ways to Combat Slothfulness

1. Encourage Accountability: Create small groups for members to support each other.
2. Set Clear Goals: Establish and communicate clear spiritual and community objectives.
3. Promote Active Participation: Invite members to be involved in planning and executing church activities.
4. Foster a Culture of Encouragement: Regularly recognize and celebrate participation and achievements.
5. Provide Training and Resources: Equip members with tools to develop their spiritual lives.
6. Engage in Regular Teaching: Focus on sermons and teachings that address diligence and stewardship.
7. Organize Prayer Meetings: Emphasize the importance of prayer in combating slothfulness.
8. Facilitate Workshops: Offer workshops on time management and prioritization.
9. Develop Mentorship Programs: Pair less active members with mentors for guidance.
10. Encourage Testimonies: Allow members to share how active participation has impacted their lives.
11. Create Volunteer Opportunities: Clearly define

roles and responsibilities for church activities.

12. Implement Follow-Up Systems: Check in with absent members to express care and encourage return.

13. Promote Spiritual Disciplines: Encourage regular prayer, fasting, and Bible study.

14. Organize Retreats or Camps: Provide immersive experiences to reignite passion for church life.

15. Use Technology: Leverage digital tools for reminders and engagement.

16. Address Barriers: Identify and address obstacles preventing participation.

17. Cultivate a Welcoming Environment: Ensure the church is inclusive and inviting.

18. Encourage Family Involvement: Promote activities that involve the entire family.

19. Set an Example: Church leaders should model diligence and commitment.

20. Pray for Revival: Consistently pray for a renewed spirit and enthusiasm within the church.

The Impact of Slothfulness in History and Society

The COVID-19 pandemic has profoundly impacted

society, particularly among younger generations. With lockdowns, social distancing, and the shift to remote work and learning, many people found themselves in situations that could foster slothfulness. Here are some observations on how these factors, along with social media and video games, contribute to a culture of laziness:

1. **Isolation and Disruption of Routine:** The pandemic disrupted daily routines, leading many to adopt more sedentary lifestyles. With schools and workplaces closed, the structure that often drives productivity was removed, making it easier for people to fall into patterns of inactivity.
2. **Increased Screen Time:** With more time spent at home, many turned to social media and video games for entertainment. While these can provide a temporary escape, excessive use can lead to addiction and a lack of motivation to engage in more productive activities.
3. **Excuses for Inaction:** The pandemic provided a convenient excuse for many to justify their laziness. The fear of illness, combined with the comfort of home, made it easier for individuals to avoid responsibilities and chores they might have previously tackled.
4. **Dependency on Technology:** The reliance on technology for social interaction, work, and education

can also contribute to slothfulness. With everything available at the click of a button, the motivation to engage in physical activities or face-to-face interactions may diminish.

5. **Mental Health Challenges:** The pandemic has also had significant mental health implications, leading to feelings of anxiety, depression, and lethargy. These feelings can further contribute to a lack of motivation and engagement in daily tasks.

Fables and Tales of the Slothful

1. **The Ant and the Grasshopper:** This classic Aesop's fable illustrates the consequences of laziness when the grasshopper fails to prepare for winter.

2. **The Tortoise and the Hare:** Another Aesop's fable that teaches the value of perseverance and steady effort over complacency.

3. **The Lazy Farmer:** A tale about the consequences of neglecting one's responsibilities, leading to failure during harvest.

4. **The Dog in the Manger:** This fable shows how slothfulness can lead to selfishness and hinder others.

5. **The Prodigal Son:** While this parable focuses on wastefulness, it also reflects slothfulness in the way the younger son squanders his inheritance on reckless living rather than being diligent and

responsible with his resources.

Folklore: The Lazy King and the Diligent Peasant

The Story of the Lazy King

Once upon a time in a faraway kingdom, there lived a king known for his laziness. He spent his days lounging in his royal chambers, indulging in feasts and entertainment while neglecting the affairs of the kingdom. The people suffered under his rule; crops went untended, and the economy fell into disarray. The king was warned repeatedly by his advisors, but he dismissed their concerns, preferring to enjoy his comfortable lifestyle.

As time passed, the kingdom fell into chaos. The once-thriving markets became empty, and the citizens grew restless. Eventually, the king lost everything: his wealth, his power, and the loyalty of his subjects. With no one left to support him, he was forced to flee the castle, living as a beggar in the very streets he once ruled.

The Rise of the Diligent Peasant

In contrast, there was a poor peasant who lived on the outskirts of the kingdom. Despite his humble

circumstances, he worked diligently from dawn until dusk, tending to his small plot of land. He planted seeds, nurtured his crops, and took pride in his work. While others complained about the king's negligence, he focused on what he could control.

As the kingdom's situation worsened, the diligent peasant's hard work began to pay off. His crops flourished, and he was able to feed his family and share with his neighbors. Word of his success spread, and people began to flock to him for advice. The peasant became a leader in his community, inspiring others to work hard and take responsibility for their lives.

Eventually, the kingdom was restored, and the people sought a new ruler who valued diligence and responsibility. The peasant was chosen to lead, having proven himself through hard work and dedication. He transformed the kingdom into a prosperous land, ensuring that everyone had the opportunity to thrive.

Moral of the Story

This tale illustrates the stark contrast between slothfulness and diligence. The lazy king lost everything due to his inaction, while the diligent peasant rose from poverty to prominence through hard work and perseverance.

Bible Characters Associated with Slothfulness

1. The Sluggard: A recurring theme in Proverbs representing laziness and its consequences.
2. King Solomon (in his later years): Solomon became complacent and allowed idolatry to infiltrate his reign, leading to his downfall (1 Kings 11).
3. The Wicked Servant: In the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30), this servant is labeled “wicked and lazy” for failing to invest his talent wisely.
4. Lot’s Wife: Her hesitation and longing for Sodom reflect a lack of diligence in following God’s command (Genesis 19:26).
5. The Israelites in the Wilderness: Their complaints and lack of faith during their journey to the Promised Land illustrate slothfulness in spiritual matters (Exodus 16).
6. Peter (during Jesus’ arrest): Peter fell asleep in the Garden of Gethsemane, showing a lack of vigilance and commitment (Matthew 26:40-41).
7. The Rich Fool: Focused on material wealth rather than spiritual productivity (Luke 12:16-21).

Illustrations and Stories of People
Who Suffer from Slothfulness

1. **The Overworked Employee:** A young professional may find themselves overwhelmed by work demands but becomes so exhausted that they procrastinate on important tasks. This leads to missed deadlines and increased stress, perpetuating a cycle of slothfulness.
2. **The Student Who Plays Video Games:** A high school student becomes addicted to video games, spending hours in front of the screen instead of studying for exams. As a result, their grades drop, and they fall behind in their education, leading to feelings of inadequacy and shame.
3. **The Homeowner Who Neglects Repairs:** A homeowner may put off necessary repairs around the house, believing they will get to them later. Over time, small issues escalate into major problems, leading to costly repairs and a deteriorating living environment.
4. **The Aspiring Writer:** An aspiring author has a brilliant idea for a book but keeps delaying writing it due to distractions from social media and streaming services. As years pass, they realize that their dream remains unfulfilled due to their own slothfulness.
5. **The Fitness Enthusiast:** A person who once enjoyed exercising may find themselves in a slump during the pandemic, choosing to stay in bed instead of working out. Over time, their fitness level declines, leading to health issues and loss of motivation.

The Impact of Slothfulness in History and Society

Throughout history, slothfulness has manifested in various ways, often linked to societal structures, political ideologies, and cultural shifts. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these tendencies, but the roots of slothfulness can be traced back to broader societal influences, including political ideologies that promote dependency over self-sufficiency.

Historical Examples of Slothfulness

1. The Fall of Rome: The decline of the Roman Empire is often attributed to various factors, including economic troubles and military defeats. However, slothfulness among the citizenry, particularly the elite, contributed to a lack of civic responsibility and engagement. As the government grew more bureaucratic, many citizens became complacent, relying on the state for their needs rather than taking personal initiative.

2. The Great Depression: During this economic downturn, many individuals faced extreme hardship. While some worked tirelessly to survive, others fell into despair and lethargy, unable to muster the motivation to seek employment or improve their circumstances. The reliance on government assistance programs grew, leading to a culture of

dependency that some argue still affects society today.

3. Welfare Dependency: In modern times, critics of welfare systems argue that some social programs have created a culture of dependency, where individuals rely on government assistance rather than seeking employment or self-improvement. This has led to accusations that certain political ideologies foster laziness and entitlement.

4. The Rise of Consumer Culture: The post-World War II era saw a significant rise in consumerism, with many individuals prioritizing leisure and material possessions over hard work and productivity. This shift has contributed to a culture where instant gratification is valued over diligence and perseverance.

Political Influences on Slothfulness

The notion that left-wing politics and socialism can foster slothfulness is a topic of debate. Critics argue that government programs designed to support the needy can inadvertently encourage dependency rather than self-reliance. Here are some points often raised in this discussion:

1. Government Dependency: Critics argue that extensive welfare programs can create a mindset

where individuals rely on government support rather than seeking employment or improving their skills.

2. Incentives for Laziness: Some believe that policies that provide financial assistance without requiring work can lead to a lack of motivation among recipients to seek employment or contribute to society.

3. Immigration Policies: The perception that immigrants receive more support than citizens can foster resentment and a sense of injustice among native populations. This can be seen in debates over benefits provided to undocumented immigrants compared to those available to citizens.

4. Cultural Shifts: The promotion of a narrative that emphasizes victimhood and entitlement can undermine the values of hard work and personal responsibility.

Scriptures Addressing Dependency and Laziness

Here are some scriptures that emphasize the importance of hard work, personal responsibility, and the dangers of laziness and dependency:

1. Proverbs 10:4 “He who has a slack hand becomes poor, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.”

2. Proverbs 12:11 “He who tills his land will be

satisfied with bread, but he who follows frivolity is devoid of understanding.”

3. 2 Thessalonians 3:10 “For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.”

4. Proverbs 14:23 “In all labor there is profit, but idle chatter leads only to poverty.”

5. Proverbs 28:19 “He who tills his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows frivolity will have poverty enough!”

6. Ecclesiastes 9:10 “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for in the grave, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom.”

7. 1 Timothy 5:8 “But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”

8. Proverbs 6:6-8 “Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, which, having no captain, overseer, or ruler, provides her supplies in the summer and gathers her food in the harvest.”

Steps to Overcome Slothfulness: A Guide to Fervency and Diligence

As Apostolic Pentecostal believers, it is essential to

recognize the importance of diligence and fervency in our lives. Here are ten practical steps to help overcome slothfulness, supported by scripture:

1. Set Clear Goals: Define specific, achievable goals for your life, both spiritually and practically. Scripture: Philippians 3:14 - "I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

2. Develop a Daily Routine: Establish a daily schedule that includes time for work, prayer, and personal development. Scripture: Proverbs 24:27 - "Prepare your outside work, make it fit for yourself in the field; and afterward build your house."

3. Engage in Prayer and Scripture Reading: Dedicate time each day to pray and read the Bible to strengthen your spirit and resolve. Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:17 - "Pray without ceasing."

4. Limit Distractions: Identify and minimize distractions, such as excessive screen time or social media, that lead to laziness. Scripture: Ephesians 5:15-16 - "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil."

5. Seek Accountability: Find a mentor or friend who can hold you accountable for your goals and progress. Scripture: Proverbs 27:17 - "As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend."

6. Take Small Steps: Start with small tasks and gradually increase your workload to build momentum. Scripture: Zechariah 4:10 - “For who has despised the day of small things?”

7. Practice Gratitude: Cultivate an attitude of gratitude to help shift your focus from what you lack to what you can achieve. Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:18 - “In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

8. Embrace Hard Work: Commit to working diligently in all that you do, recognizing that hard work pays off. Scripture: Proverbs 12:24 - “The hand of the diligent will rule, but the lazy man will be put to forced labor.”

9. Reflect on Your Progress: Regularly evaluate your progress and adjust your goals as necessary to stay on track. Scripture: 2 Corinthians 13:5 - “Examine yourselves, whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves.”

10. Trust in God’s Strength: Rely on God’s strength to help you overcome laziness and to pursue your goals with fervency. Scripture: Philippians 4:13 - “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Hebrew and Greek Words

- Hebrew Word for Slothfulness: אִצְלָן (atzlan) - meaning “lazy” or “slothful.”

- Greek Word for Slothfulness: ὀκνηρός (oknēros) - meaning “slothful” or “lazy.”

Scriptures Related to Slothfulness

1. Proverbs 6:6-11 “Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise...”
2. Proverbs 10:4 “He who has a slack hand becomes poor, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.”
3. Proverbs 12:24 “The hand of the diligent will rule, but the lazy man will be put to forced labor.”
4. Proverbs 13:4 “The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing; but the soul of the diligent shall be made rich.”
5. Proverbs 19:15 “Laziness casts one into a deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger.”
6. Proverbs 21:25-26 “The desire of the lazy man kills him, for his hands refuse to labor...”
7. Proverbs 22:13 “The lazy man says, ‘There is a lion outside! I shall be slain in the streets!’”
8. Proverbs 24:30-34 “I went by the field of the lazy man, and by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding...”
9. Ecclesiastes 10:18 “Because of laziness the building decays, and through idleness of hands the house leaks.”

10. Matthew 25:26-30 “But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant!’”
11. Luke 9:62 “But Jesus said to him, ‘No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.’”
12. 2 Thessalonians 3:10 “For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.”
13. 1 Timothy 5:13 “And besides they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house...”
14. Proverbs 15:19 “The way of the lazy man is like a hedge of thorns, but the way of the upright is a highway.”
15. Proverbs 26:14 “As a door turns on its hinges, so does the lazy man on his bed.”
16. Proverbs 10:5 “He who gathers in summer is a wise son; he who sleeps in harvest is a son who causes shame.”
17. Proverbs 12:27 “The lazy man does not roast what he took in hunting, but diligence is man’s precious possession.”
18. Proverbs 14:23 “In all labor there is profit, but idle chatter leads only to poverty.”
19. Proverbs 16:26 “The person who labors, labors for himself, for his hungry mouth drives him on.”

20. Proverbs 28:19 “He who tills his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows frivolity will have poverty enough!”
21. Ecclesiastes 4:5 “The fool folds his hands and consumes his own flesh.”
22. Romans 12:11 “Not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.”
23. Colossians 3:23 “And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men.”
24. Hebrews 6:12 “That you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”
25. James 1:22 “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”
26. James 4:17 “Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.”
27. 1 Corinthians 15:58 “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord...”
28. Galatians 6:9 “And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”
29. Philippians 3:14 “I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”
30. 2 Timothy 1:6 “Therefore I remind you to stir up

the gift of God which is in you...”

31. 1 Thessalonians 5:14 “Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.”

32. Proverbs 20:4 “The lazy man will not plow because of winter; he will beg during harvest and have nothing.”

33. Proverbs 24:27 “Prepare your outside work, make it fit for yourself in the field; and afterward build your house.”

34. Proverbs 26:16 “The lazy man is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who can answer sensibly.”

35. Matthew 7:26-27 “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.”

36. Philippians 2:12 “Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.”

37. Ephesians 4:28 “Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good...”

38. Proverbs 11:18 “The wicked man does deceptive work, but he who sows righteousness will have a sure reward.”

39. Proverbs 12:11 “He who tills his land will be satisfied with bread, but he who follows frivolity is devoid of understanding.”

40. Proverbs 3:21-23 “My son, let them not depart from your eyes—keep sound wisdom and discretion; so they will be life to your soul and grace to your neck.”

41. Proverbs 28:22 “A man with an evil eye hastens after riches, and does not consider that poverty will come upon him.”

42. Romans 14:12 “So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.”

43. 1 Peter 5:8 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”

44. Proverbs 15:22 “Without counsel, plans go awry, but in the multitude of counselors they are established.”

45. Proverbs 12:19 “The truthful lip shall be established forever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment.”

46. Ecclesiastes 9:10 “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for in the grave, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom.”

47. Matthew 25:14-30 (Parable of the Talents -

emphasizes responsibility and productivity.)

48. 2 Timothy 2:15 “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed...”

49. Proverbs 16:3 “Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established.”

50. Proverbs 27:23 “Be diligent to know the state of your flocks, and attend to your herds.”

51. Proverbs 29:17 “Correct your son, and he will give you rest; yes, he will give delight to your soul.”

52. Matthew 5:16 “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

53. Luke 12:47-48 “And that servant who knew his master’s will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes...”

54. 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 “Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.”

55. Colossians 1:29 “To this end, I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.”

56. 1 Thessalonians 4:11 “That you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work

with your own hands...”

57. Proverbs 3:27 “Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do so.”

58. Proverbs 10:18 “Whoever hides hatred has lying lips, and whoever spreads slander is a fool.”

59. Proverbs 14:23 “In all labor there is profit, but idle chatter leads only to poverty.”

60. 2 Peter 1:5-8 “But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge...”

61. Proverbs 22:29 “Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before unknown men.”

62. Matthew 12:36 “But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.”

63. Luke 16:10 “He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much.”

64. Proverbs 25:14 “Whoever falsely boasts of giving is like clouds and wind without rain.”

65. Ephesians 5:15-16 “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”

66. Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

67. Proverbs 11:27 “He who earnestly seeks good finds favor, but trouble will come to him who seeks evil.”

68. Isaiah 56:10 “His watchmen are blind; they are all ignorant; they are all dumb dogs; they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber.”

69. Proverbs 26:13 “The lazy man says, ‘There is a lion in the road! A fierce lion is in the streets!’”

70. Proverbs 15:19 “The way of the lazy is like a hedge of thorns, but the path of the upright is a highway.”

71. Hebrews 10:24-25 “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together...”

72. 1 Corinthians 3:8 “Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.”

73. Proverbs 19:24 “A lazy man buries his hand in the bowl, and will not so much as bring it to his mouth again.”

74. Ecclesiastes 5:12 “The sleep of a laboring man is sweet, whether he eats little or much; but the abundance of the rich will not permit him to sleep.”

75. Matthew 7:24-25 “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock...”

76. Galatians 5:13 “For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”

77. Philippians 1:27 “Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ...”

78. 2 Corinthians 9:6 “But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”

79. Proverbs 31:27 “She watches over the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness.”

80. Romans 2:6 “Who will render to each one according to his deeds...”

81. Proverbs 27:1 “Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth.”

82. 1 Timothy 6:12 “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called...”

83. Proverbs 28:20 “A faithful man will abound with blessings, but he who hastens to be rich will not go unpunished.”

84. Ephesians 6:7 “With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men.”

85. Proverbs 16:26 “The person who labors, labors for himself, for his hungry mouth drives him on.”
86. Proverbs 4:23 “Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.”
87. Mark 14:38 “Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”
88. Colossians 2:23 “These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body...”
89. Proverbs 3:5-6 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”
90. Romans 12:1 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God...”
91. Philippians 2:3 “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.”
92. 2 Timothy 4:7 “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”
93. 1 John 3:18 “My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.”
94. Proverbs 14:4 “Where no oxen are, the trough is

clean; but much increase comes by the strength of an ox.”

95. Proverbs 20:13 “Do not love sleep, lest you come to poverty; open your eyes, and you will be satisfied with bread.”

96. Hebrews 4:11 “Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.”

97. 1 Peter 2:9 “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people...”

98. Proverbs 10:3 “The Lord will not allow the righteous soul to famish, but He casts away the desire of the wicked.”

99. Isaiah 40:31 “But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles...”

100. Philippians 3:13-14 “Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead...”

Conclusion

The sin of slothfulness and sluggishness is addressed throughout the Bible, emphasizing the importance

of diligence and hard work. Both Hebrew and Greek terms highlight the negative consequences of laziness, while the scriptures provide clear warnings against these behaviors. As believers, it is essential to cultivate a spirit of diligence and responsibility, seeking to honor God in all our endeavors.

The Tale of the Slothful Snail

Once upon a time in a vibrant garden, there lived a snail named Simon. Unlike the other creatures in the garden, Simon was known for his laziness. While the ants busily collected food, the bees diligently gathered nectar, and the butterflies fluttered from flower to flower, Simon preferred to lounge on a leaf, basking in the sun and dreaming of a life filled with adventure.

One sunny day, a wise old tortoise named Tilly passed by Simon's leaf. She noticed him lying there, and with a gentle smile, she said, "Simon, why don't you join the others? There's a whole world out there waiting for you to explore!"

Simon lazily opened one eye and replied, "Why should I rush? I'm perfectly content right here. Besides, it's too much work to move. I'll get to it tomorrow."

Tilly shook her head, knowing that tomorrow never

comes for those who procrastinate. “You may miss out on wonderful experiences if you keep putting things off. Life is meant to be lived, not just observed.”

But Simon simply shrugged and returned to his daydreams. Days turned into weeks, and while the other garden creatures thrived, Simon remained in his comfortable spot, watching life pass him by.

One day, a big storm rolled into the garden. The winds howled, and the rain poured down, causing chaos among the busy creatures. The ants hurried to their underground homes, the bees sought shelter in their hives, and the butterflies found refuge under large leaves. But Simon, too lazy to move, simply clung to his leaf, thinking he would be fine.

As the storm raged on, the leaf began to shake violently, and soon it was torn from its branch, sending Simon tumbling down into a puddle. The water was cold and muddy, and Simon realized he had no choice but to move. He began to slide through the muck, struggling to find shelter.

After what felt like an eternity, Simon finally spotted a small hole in the ground. He squeezed inside, grateful to be out of the storm. As he sat there, he realized that he had missed so much by being slothful. He had not only lost his comfortable spot but also the chance

to experience the beauty of the garden.

When the storm passed, and the sun came out again, Simon emerged from his hiding place. He saw Tilly the tortoise moving slowly but steadily, making her way through the garden. She smiled at Simon and said, “I see you’ve learned a valuable lesson, my friend.”

From that day on, Simon decided to change his ways. He began to explore the garden, meeting new friends and discovering the joys of hard work. Although he was still a snail and moved slowly, he found fulfillment in the effort he put into his life.

Moral of the Story

The tale of Simon the Slothful Snail reminds us that laziness can lead to missed opportunities and hardships. Embracing diligence and taking action, no matter how small, can lead to a more fulfilling and rewarding life. Just like Simon, we must overcome slothfulness to truly experience the beauty of our surroundings and the richness of life.

The interplay between slothfulness and societal influences, including political ideologies, has created a complex landscape where individual responsibility and diligence are often at odds with a culture of dependency. As seen throughout history, slothfulness can lead to personal and societal decline.

Encouraging a culture of hard work, personal initiative, and responsibility is crucial for fostering resilience and prosperity. By recognizing the dangers of slothfulness and the societal factors that contribute to it, individuals and communities can strive to overcome these challenges and lead more fulfilling lives.

In an Apostolic Pentecostal Lifestyle, it is essential to seek God's guidance and strength to combat the spirit of slothfulness, embracing a life of purpose, diligence, and faithfulness in all endeavors.

The Bear, the Beaver, the Lion, and the Leopard: A Folklore Tale

In a lush, green forest where the sun danced through the leaves and the rivers sang their endless songs, there lived four creatures: a bear, a beaver, a lion, and a leopard. Each had their own way of living, but the forest was their shared home.

As the days grew warmer and the whispers of summer began to fill the air, the lion and the leopard, wise and diligent, knew that the time had come to prepare. "Summer is near," said the lion, his golden mane glistening in the sunlight. "We must gather our food and strengthen our dens."

The leopard nodded in agreement, her sleek body poised and ready. “Yes, let us work hard now so that we may rest later,” she replied, her eyes sharp and focused.

And so, the lion and the leopard set to work, hunting and gathering, storing and building. They moved with purpose and precision, their minds set on the future.

Meanwhile, not far away, the bear and the beaver were enjoying the gentle warmth of the sun. The bear, with his thick fur and love for comfort, yawned lazily. “There’s plenty of time,” he murmured, settling into a cozy spot beneath a tree.

The beaver, usually industrious, was lulled by the bear’s laid-back attitude. “Yes, why rush?” he agreed, his tail tapping idly on the ground. “We can always gather tomorrow.”

Days turned into weeks, and the lion and the leopard continued their diligent work, while the bear and the beaver remained in their sluggish ways, dreaming of endless leisure.

Finally, summer arrived in all its glory. The forest was alive with color and sound, and the lion and the leopard enjoyed the fruits of their labor, their dens filled with food and their hearts at ease.

But for the bear and the beaver, the summer brought

a rude awakening. The sun was hot, and the food was scarce. The bear found himself hungry, his once-comfortable spot now a reminder of his slothfulness. The beaver, too, regretted his laziness, his dam unfinished and his pantry bare.

Realizing their mistake, the bear and the beaver approached the lion and the leopard, humbled and ashamed. “We see now the error of our ways,” said the bear, his voice filled with regret. “We wish to learn from you, to be steadfast and diligent.”

The lion, with a kind heart, nodded. “There is always time to change,” he said. “Join us, and we will teach you the ways of preparation and hard work.”

The leopard, with a gentle smile, added, “Together, we can ensure that the future is bright for us all.”

And so, the four creatures worked side by side, learning from one another and growing stronger as a community. The bear and the beaver, once lazy and sluggish, found joy in their newfound diligence, while the lion and the leopard found satisfaction in their shared wisdom.

From that day forward, the forest thrived, a testament to the power of hard work and the strength of unity. And the tale of the bear, the beaver, the lion, and the leopard was told for generations, a reminder that it is never too late to change and that together, all things are possible.

The bear and the beaver felt a spark of hope igniting within them. They had watched the lion and the leopard thrive, and now they yearned to transform their ways. “Thank you for your kindness,” said the beaver, his eyes glistening with determination. “We are ready to learn.”

The lion and the leopard welcomed their friends into their fold. “First, we must gather food,” the leopard instructed. “Let’s work together, each using our strengths.”

The bear, with his powerful frame, set off to find berries and fruits, shaking the branches of the trees to let the ripe offerings fall. The beaver, with his sharp teeth and skilled paws, worked on building a proper dam, ensuring that they would have a steady supply of fresh water and fish. Together, they toiled under the warm sun, laughter echoing through the forest as they shared stories and encouraged one another. The lion taught them the importance of planning ahead, while the leopard showed them how to be observant and swift in their actions.

As days passed, the bear and the beaver grew stronger and more adept. They learned to appreciate the satisfaction that came from hard work, realizing that it was not just about the end result but the journey they shared together.

When autumn arrived, the forest transformed into a tapestry of gold and crimson. The bear and the beaver stood proudly beside the lion and the leopard, their dens

filled with food, their spirits high. They had learned the value of diligence, teamwork, and foresight.

One evening, as they sat together watching the sun dip below the horizon, the bear turned to his friends. “Thank you for guiding us,” he said. “We were foolish to waste our time, but now we understand the importance of preparation.”

The lion nodded, a smile spreading across his face. “It is never too late to learn,” he replied. “What matters is that you took the first step.”

The leopard added, “And remember, every season brings its own challenges and opportunities. Stay vigilant, and you will always be ready.”

From that day forward, the bear and the beaver embraced their new way of life. They continued to work hard, but they also made time to enjoy the beauty of their forest home. They had learned that balance was key—between work and play, diligence and rest.

And so, in that lush, green forest, the bear, the beaver, the lion, and the leopard thrived together, united by friendship and the wisdom they had gained. The sun continued to dance through the leaves, and the rivers sang their endless songs, a reminder of the harmony that comes from working together and respecting the rhythms of nature.

And thus, the tale of the bear, the beaver, the lion, and the leopard became a cherished story, passed down through generations, teaching all who heard it the value of hard work, the importance of preparation, and the joy of camaraderie.

Written by Keith Joel Walker