

Sleeping Till Noon... Poverty Coming Soon

“I went past the field of the sluggard, past the vineyard of man who lack judgement; thorns had come up everywhere, the ground was covered with weeds, and the stone wall was in ruin. I applied my heart to what I have 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 bandit and scarcity like an armed man.” (Proverbs 24:30-34)

People have different opinions and attitudes regarding the importance of work. Likewise, many factors determine our work, like for what we are working, the way we are working, and the time we spend for work. Other factors may include desires for our personal needs and family requirements. It may be our desire to replenish a financial capital, our desire to fulfil a specific task, our desire to satisfy our masters, our desire to work to please God.

People as well vary on how they divide their time. There is a time set for rest and there is time set for work. There is time set for prayers to God and there is time set for families. The time set for rest and sleep is important for our bodies, and the time set for pleasure is necessary to give rest to our minds.

A man who accepted the Lord, is saved and a Christian may say: “Already I have everything, including the eternal life. So let me sleep for a while and enjoy staying on bed for a longer time! Why I am in a hurry to do the work? Even God created the world over six days and then set the Sabbath day to enter into rest.”

All what is written and presented is fine and well, and all the above may seem right and no wrong. I have the full respect to all people on how they love their work, and how they divide their time and classify the reasons that push them for work. And here, I will not insist only about the importance of work but I want you to be aware and think about what may infect and spoil the work. Something so evil, a fatal sin, called **“Laziness”**. But if you are not working and you are searching for job but has not yet found, or your body is physically afflicted and you cannot work this message is not for you.

Laziness is a sickness and it can infect anybody, the young and the old, the children as well as the parents. It can affect the unbelievers and to some extent the believers inside the church, from the teens to adults level. No racial discrimination, any race can be affected. Male and female are affected with equal ratio. No one is immune to it, some in the incubation period others in the convalescent stage. And sad thing to say, “There is no lifelong immunity of Laziness.” After you are infected and healed from it the possibility of recurrence and relapse is still there. Be aware, it is also a contagious disease. You may get it from your neighbour and you may transmit it to the one sitting beside you. In fact, all of us in one stage of our lives had the spirit of sluggard, maybe right now present inside us or that was in the past. You may look busy or you seem very active, but in the inside you are sluggard.

The passage for this week is from the book of Proverbs written by King Solomon, a man known for many things but above them all well known for his wisdom. The king was passing through his kingdom and he observed and noticed the active, the diligent, as well as the lazy people around. He passed the field of the sluggard, and that field maybe a vineyard, a house, a family, a factory, a hospital, a bank, a university, a school, a classroom, a supermarket, a ministry, or the church. Solomon, if you notice in this Proverb, first

he did not see the sluggard but when he saw his vineyard he diagnosed the owner as a sluggard. For he observed the following:

1) Thorns had come up everywhere: Since the owner stop planting new seeds the ground is now empty, his vineyard, his job, his family, his ministry is barren, and thorns have come out from the ground.

2) The ground was covered with weeds: The owner is not bothered to remove the weeds from the ground, or to correct the wrong ways in his life and put them in the right path.

3) The stone wall was in ruin: He is not bothered to protect his vineyard or to keep his job, family, study, or ministry. He is not bothered to repair the walls to protect his fields; instead he easily gives up everything

Solomon described the sluggard as a **man who lacks judgement:** Solomon, the wise man observed carefully what is going on in the vineyard. But with a loving heart (I applied my heart to what I observed), he concluded a lesson that he himself learned. He used the words little for three times to describe the pillars of laziness. Add little to little from everything until it will be converted into much. And these three little things are:

1) Little sleep: Extra few hours of sleep may cause your ministry to be fruitless, your income to be less, your performance in the study to decline, your prayer to be less, and you may even loss your job.

2) Little slumber: To close your eyes from the thorns and weeds, and the wrong things in your field, job, family, and relation will not cause it to blossom but to go into ruin.

3) Little folding of the hands: To procrastinate and delay your action for some more time like not today, just next week, next month, next year, or not now keep it after a while! These will not cause progress but a regress in your study, work, marital, family, and spiritual life.

The lazy spirit sometimes remains inside us in a dormant way, and may hide itself using a garment of another evil spirit like the spirit of fear. Speaking about this phenomenon is **Proverbs 22:13 (The sluggard says there is a lion outside! Or, I will be murdered in the streets!)** We may have fear in our hearts to do some work but what really stop us from doing is not the threats or lions standing outside, but the spirit of laziness promoting the spirit of fear to protect itself. Realize yourself and study your personality, and see if this is what’s happening with you.

My dear and beloved: No one delights in poverty. No one of you delights in fruitless life and scarcity. No one will be happy with the barren ministry, job, or family life. I applied my loving heart to what I observed, and that’s what makes me strong to give you the right words. This message ministered to me before it ministers to you. If we sleep till noon and will continue on that I can tell you confidently that poverty is coming soon. Let us search and assess ourselves if laziness is present in our jobs, families, relations, affairs, ministries, or in our church. Let us snatch laziness out as early as we can. And to encourage myself and to encourage you, let us meditate on what is written in the scriptures **“The sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the desire of the diligent one are fully satisfied.” (Proverbs 13:4)** As you pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your word that brings clarity and understanding into my life. Lord I commit myself unto you. Lord cleanses me from laziness and all the lies of devil in this field _____.*
Lord use me mightily, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.