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Daily Devotional - Tuesday, January 24, 2017 - What God Thinks of Slothfulness

JANUARY 24TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

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[Ephesians 2:8-10](#)

Slothfulness is an act of rebellion toward the Lord. He created us with a sense of purpose so that we would be productive. When we choose to be lazy, we are guilty of wastefulness because we have each received a special gift that is being squandered ([1 Peter 4:10](#)).

Lazy people live in a bubble of self-absorption. The only thing that matters to them is that they get what they want. This is in direct conflict with Scripture, which says we are to regard one another as more important than ourselves ([Phil. 2:3](#)). For instance, when we are deliberately slow on the job, we are not regarding our boss as important.

We are called to walk in discipline and service to God, and He is displeased if we approach work with a negligent attitude ([Jer. 48:10](#)). Whatever we do in life, God will reward us for doing it well. I bagged groceries and washed cars to make money for school. No matter what the task was, I always worked in the best way I knew how. That was something I learned from my mother, who worked 40 years in a textile mill and never complained.

People often make excuses for their laziness—they blame their home environment, poor self-esteem, or a negative attitude. But God does not accept our excuses. He gives us clear instructions for overcoming laziness: “Go to the ant, O sluggard; observe her ways and be wise” ([Prov. 6:6](#)). The ant works, prepares, and provides. In other words, we are to work

with diligence in all that we do. Our personal responsibility to Jesus Christ is always to give our best effort.

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Daily Devotional - Monday, January 23, 2017 - The Landmine of Laziness

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[2 Thessalonians 3:6-13](#)

Many people never stop to realize that laziness is a sin. But like any other landmine, it has the potential to hurt or destroy lives. To be constantly idle and fruitless is contrary to scriptural teachings. And anything that goes against God's Word is a sin. In the parable of

the talents, Jesus said of the servant who'd buried his master's money, "You wicked, lazy servant!" (See [Matt. 25:26](#) NIV.) The Lord put both wickedness and slothfulness into the same undesirable category.

The book of Proverbs gives us a description of the lazy person. First, he is a procrastinator—somebody who puts off what needs to be done ([Prov. 20:4](#)). Second, he uses any excuse to avoid work ([Prov. 22:13](#)). Third, he wastes time ([Prov. 6:9-11](#)). And finally, a slothful person is neglectful and careless with regard to what's going on around him ([Prov. 24:30-32](#)).

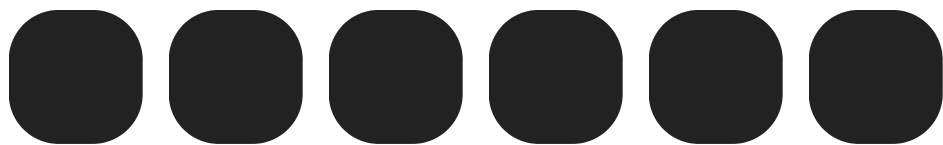
Laziness does not fit who we are as believers. Our Father expects us to live purposefully and work conscientiously; to be lazy and turn out a poor performance damages our testimony. [Proverbs 25:19](#) warns, "Like a bad tooth and an unsteady foot is confidence in a faithless man in time trouble." A lazy, untrustworthy person leaves tasks unfinished and, as a result, is a poor witness for Christ. What will unbelievers see in such a life that they would desire for themselves?

We have a wonderful opportunity to participate in God's work, and that includes performing well in our vocation as a demonstration of obedience. Choose to work for Him today.

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Daily Devotional - Saturday, January 21, 2017 - The Holy Spirit, Our Guide

JANUARY 21ST 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

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John 16:12-15

All of God's children are on a journey. And as we travel through life en route to our eternal home, every one of us will face a multitude of choices. Forks in the road and unmarked intersections challenge and frustrate us. In such circumstances, how can we know which way to go?

Jesus promised to give us an internal and ever-present Guide. Starting at the moment of salvation, everyone who trusts in the Savior is indwelt by the Holy Spirit, who promises to lead believers into all the truth. Like a built-in compass, He will direct us exactly the right way, regardless of the choice. He never makes a mistake.

So you may be thinking, *If He is living in me and never makes a wrong choice, why do I keep messing up?* His leadership is always right, but our reception isn't always clear. Yielding to the Lord is an essential part of receiving His direction. We cannot tolerate sin and go our own way in one area and expect to receive His guidance in another.

Sin does to our understanding of the Lord's clear direction what a magnet does to the needle of a compass. If a magnet is placed next to a compass, the needle will point in a multitude of directions. In the same way, sin will mislead us.

When a decision is unclear, ask yourself these questions: *Will Christ be glorified in this choice? Can I do this in Jesus' name?* If either answer is no, then don't follow that path, because the Holy Spirit is not guiding you there. His leading always aligns with Scripture and brings glory to Christ.

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Daily Devotional - Friday, January 20, 2017 - The Power of the Holy Spirit

JANUARY 20TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Friday, January 20, 2017 - The Power of the Holy Spirit

[Galatians 5:22-26](#)

The Holy Spirit is vital to the Christian life. Read about the fruit of the Spirit in today's passage, and ask, *Can I be such a good person on my own?* We need divine intervention to live as God expects. That's why He gives each believer a Helper, whose job is to produce Christlike character in us.

The heavenly Father knows that His children need assistance to comply with His commands. Even Jesus Christ's most faithful followers were, on their own, helpless to obey—for instance, Peter, who pledged to be loyal until death, denied even knowing Christ ([Matt. 26:69-75](#)).

Before returning to heaven, Jesus ordered the disciples to put their missionary work on hold until the Holy Spirit arrived ([Luke 24:49](#)). Only with the Spirit's aid could Peter the coward become Peter the rock and preach a challenging sermon that convicted many ([Acts 2](#); see also [Matt. 16:18](#)).

The Holy Spirit enters a believer's life at the moment of salvation and immediately sets about the work of producing spiritual fruit. This is the outward expression of a transformed heart. When we yield to God's nurturing hand, our actions and attitudes become more loving, more joyful, more kind, more gentle ... (See Gal. 5:22-23.) He reaps a harvest of service from our life—good works that grow our own faith and expand His kingdom.

Allowing the Holy Spirit to bring forth Christlike character is not passive. Our part is to meditate upon God's Word so we can learn about His character and apply His principles. Then, instead of satisfying our flesh, we must make wise decisions each day that allow the Spirit to develop godliness in our lives.

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Daily Devotional - Thursday, January 19, 2017 - Pitfalls in Seeking God's Will

JANUARY 19TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Thursday, January 19, 2017 - Pitfalls in Seeking God's Will

Psalm 25:4-5

As a pastor, I am frequently asked how to make the right decision in challenging circumstances. Sadly, I see many people make mistakes in this area.

For example, some people pray hastily for the Lord to lead them but do not listen for His answer. Instead, they make their own decision and trust that He will bless it. But expecting God to bless what is not of Him will lead to missing out on His best. To avoid disappointment, we must be aware of several pitfalls that interfere with hearing His direction accurately.

First, be mindful of fleshly desires. Wants are not necessarily wrong, but longings become unhealthy when they consume our thoughts. Eventually, we might believe that our desired outcome is God's will, when in reality, we weren't really listening to His voice.

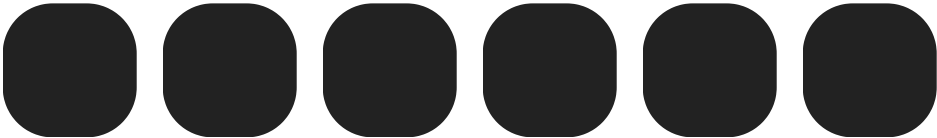
Second, watch out for faulty advice. Even well-meaning Christian friends can lead us in the wrong direction. We should carefully seek counsel from those who walk closely with Jesus and are grounded in His Word.

Third, be careful when you are feeling impatient, doubtful, or pressured in any way. These emotions can lead you to make rash decisions apart from the Lord's best for your life. Patience is hard, but His perfect will is always worth the wait.

Determine to follow God's leading. Do this by cleansing your heart, asking for guidance, waiting, and listening. When you trusted Christ as Savior, His Holy Spirit came into your heart and sealed you as His child. He will teach you how to live a godly life—direction is yours if you ask and believe.

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