

The Book of Proverbs surprisingly has a lot to say about the subject of laziness. Solomon's favorite terms for the lazy person are "sloth" or "sluggard." He uses those words no less than 17 times in Proverbs. The image of the sloth gives us an incomplete picture of what laziness really is.

Just because you are _____ doesn't mean that you are not lazy. Just because you're busy or organized does not mean that you're not lazy. If we were to examine our own lives we would see that each of us have tendencies towards laziness. **We may not be slothfully lazy, but we can be _____ lazy.** Pray and ask the Lord to reveal to you those areas of your life where you are being lazy – and ask Him for the strength and the plan to *get motivated* in that area!

Definition of laziness: **Laziness is when _____ wins over effort and I fail to do the right thing.** One man said, "Laziness is nothing more than resting before you get tired."

The Characteristics of Laziness

A sluggard is not a person who _____ work but just cannot; it is a person who _____ work but will not.

The Hebrew word translated "sluggard" describes somebody who is idling, sluggish, lazy – the person who just goes through life goofing off, always taking it easy and shirking off responsibility. They are not producers. When you read through the Book of Proverbs, there are five basic characteristics of the sluggard.

- The sluggard loves _____ and hates alarm clocks.** Solomon gives no less than five warnings concerning the kind of sleep that crosses the line between rest and laziness.

 - Too much sleep has a _____ effect.** "*As a door turns on its hinges, so does the slothful turn on his bed*" (Proverbs 26:14).
 - Too much sleep disables _____.** "*Laziness casts one into deep sleep, and an idle person it will suffer hunger*" (Proverbs 19:15).
 - Too much sleep brings _____.** "*Do not love sleep, lest you come to poverty*" (Proverbs 20:13a).
 - Too much sleep _____ God.** "*How long will you slumber, o sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep?*" (Proverbs 6:9).
 - Too much sleep wastes golden _____.** "*He who gathers in the summer is a wise son; he who sleeps in the harvest is a son who causes shame*" (Proverbs 10:5).
Zig Zigler said, "When you do what you have to do when you have to do it, then you can do what you want to do when you want to do it."
- From start to finish, the sluggard rarely _____ and never _____.**
We have been taught to feed the hungry, and we should feed those who are truly hungry and cannot provide for themselves, but some people should be allowed to go hungry if their hunger is brought on by their own laziness. Solomon said, "*Laziness casts one into a deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger*" (Proverbs 19:15). The apostle Paul was even more direct: "*For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: 'If a man will not work, he shall not eat'*" (2 Thessalonians 3:10).
- When the sluggard says _____, he means _____.**
This is a person who is a master procrastinator. He never does today what he can put off until tomorrow, and he never does tomorrow what he can put off forever. That is why God is always asking him, "*How long will your slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep?*"
- The sluggard is a big _____ but a little _____.**
"*The desire of the lazy man kills him, for his hands refuse to labor*" (Proverbs 21:25). His favorite mantra is "One day..." He wants what everybody else wants; he just doesn't want to work for it.
- The sluggard works hard ... at _____ his laziness.**
"*The lazy man is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who can answer sensibly*" (Proverbs 26:16). There is one thing that you will never convince the sluggard of: that he is a sluggard. He always has an excuse as to why he cannot work. That's the meaning of Solomon's statement:

“The way of a lazy man is like a hedge of thorns, but the way of the upright is like a highway” (Proverbs 15:19). In other words, when the sluggard looks out the front door of life, he doesn’t see a highway of opportunity; he only sees the thorns and the obstacles that are in his way.

The Crippling Effect of Laziness

There are several ways that this characteristic is destructive in people’s lives:

- **Laziness keeps us from living the _____ life that God intends.**
James 4:17 says, *“Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.”* Everything in our culture tries to rob us of being a good steward of our time, talent, and treasures. Did you know that even Jesus was tempted to be lazy? Scripture says Jesus was tempted in all the ways we were and yet He did not sin. Satan tempted Jesus with comfort. Satan said, *“I will give it all to you...if you will kneel down and worship me”* (Matthew 4:9). Jesus set the example for us by choosing discomfort over comfort – by choosing to do the right thing and obey the Father’s timeline.
- **Laziness insulates us from _____ transformation.**
Most people do not spend time with God because of sheer laziness. **If it’s important to you, you will find a _____; if not, you’ll find an _____.** God has much bigger plans for your life than comfort. Jesus said, *“I have come so that you might have life and have it more abundantly”* (John 10:10).
- **Laziness messes with our vertical and horizontal _____.**
It not only interferes with our vertical relationship with God, but it also messes with our horizontal relationships with others. Scott Peck said, *“No matter how energetic, ambitious, or wise we may be – if we truly look into ourselves we will find laziness lurking at some level.”*
- **Laziness results in you missing out on your full _____.**
This is why laziness is one of the seven deadliest sins that God hates. It has the potential to destroy your life. Proverbs 24:30-34, *“I walked by the field of a lazy person, the vineyard of one lacking sense. I saw that it was overgrown with thorns. It was covered with weeds, and its walls were broken down. Then as I looked and thought about it, I learned this lesson: A little extra sleep, a little more slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest - and poverty will pounce on you like a bandit; scarcity will attack you like an armed robber.”*

The Cure for Laziness

- 1.) **Stop being surprised when discipline and work are _____.**
We are all capable of having disciplines...any bad habit is a discipline. The question is I’ve got to choose what I want to be disciplined in. **You cannot be a disciple of Jesus without _____.** The quality of your preparation determines the quality of your performance. **What you fail to master in your life will eventually _____ you.**
- 2.) **Seek to really understand the big picture and the gift of _____.**
Until you get this point, you’ll continue to fight laziness. There is a big difference between laziness and rejuvenation. God commands us to seek rest and rejuvenation on the Sabbath. It’s a day to remember that we work to live, not live to work.
- 3.) **Set a realistic _____ to develop some life-enhancing habits.**
In order to break the grip of laziness, I have to begin with a plan that pushes me, that doesn’t defeat me.
- 4.) **Share the plan with an encouraging friend who will hold you _____.**
Once you get the plan, you declare the plan and go public with it.
- 5.) **Start with one small _____ of one area of laziness that you know you battle.**
Everybody knows that this is the most difficult part of any work. A journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step.

What is the one area of “laziness” in your life that the Holy Spirit has revealed to you today?

What is your plan? What are you going to do about it this week? _____

The Book of Proverbs surprisingly has a lot to say about the subject of laziness. Solomon's favorite terms for the lazy person are "sloth" or "sluggard." He uses those words no less than 17 times in Proverbs. The image of the sloth gives us an incomplete picture of what laziness really is.

Just because you are productive doesn't mean that you are not lazy. Just because you're busy or organized does not mean that you're not lazy. If we were to examine our own lives we would see that each of us have tendencies towards laziness. **We may not be slothfully lazy, but we can be selectively lazy.** Pray and ask the Lord to reveal to you those areas of your life where you are being lazy – and ask Him for the strength and the plan to *get motivated* in that area!

Definition of laziness: **Laziness is when comfort wins over effort and I fail to do the right thing.** One man said, "Laziness is nothing more than resting before you get tired."

The Characteristics of Laziness

A sluggard is not a person who would work but just cannot; it is a person who could work but will not.

The Hebrew word translated "sluggard" describes somebody who is idling, sluggish, lazy – the person who just goes through life goofing off, always taking it easy and shirking off responsibility. They are not producers. When you read through the Book of Proverbs, there are five basic characteristics of the sluggard.

- The sluggard loves sleep and hates alarm clocks.** Solomon gives no less than five warnings concerning the kind of sleep that crosses the line between rest and laziness.

 - Too much sleep has a dulling effect.** "*As a door turns on its hinges, so does the slothful turn on his bed*" (Proverbs 26:14).
 - Too much sleep disables ambition.** "*Laziness casts one into deep sleep, and an idle person it will suffer hunger*" (Proverbs 19:15).
 - Too much sleep brings poverty.** "*Do not love sleep, lest you come to poverty*" (Proverbs 20:13a).
 - Too much sleep disappoints God.** "*How long will you slumber, o sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep?*" (Proverbs 6:9).
 - Too much sleep wastes golden opportunities.** "*He who gathers in the summer is a wise son; he who sleeps in the harvest is a son who causes shame*" (Proverbs 10:5).
Zig Zigler said, "When you do what you have to do when you have to do it, then you can do what you want to do when you want to do it."
- From start to finish, the sluggard rarely starts and never finishes.**

We have been taught to feed the hungry, and we should feed those who are truly hungry and cannot provide for themselves, but some people should be allowed to go hungry if their hunger is brought on by their own laziness. Solomon said, "*Laziness casts one into a deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger*" (Proverbs 19:15). The apostle Paul was even more direct: "*For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: 'If a man will not work, he shall not eat'*" (2 Thessalonians 3:10).
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- The sluggard is a big dreamer but a little doer.**

"*The desire of the lazy man kills him, for his hands refuse to labor*" (Proverbs 21:25). His favorite mantra is "One day..." He wants what everybody else wants; he just doesn't want to work for it.
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"*The lazy man is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who can answer sensibly*" (Proverbs 26:16). There is one thing that you will never convince the sluggard of: that he is a sluggard. He always has an excuse as to why he cannot work. That's the meaning of Solomon's statement:

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The Crippling Effect of Laziness

There are several ways that this characteristic is destructive in people’s lives:

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James 4:17 says, *“Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.”* Everything in our culture tries to rob us of being a good steward of our time, talent, and treasures. Did you know that even Jesus was tempted to be lazy? Scripture says Jesus was tempted in all the ways we were and yet He did not sin. Satan tempted Jesus with comfort. Satan said, *“I will give it all to you...if you will kneel down and worship me”* (Matthew 4:9). Jesus set the example for us by choosing discomfort over comfort – by choosing to do the right thing and obey the Father’s timeline.
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