



CHRISTIANS AND LAZINESS

by Dr. Daniel O. C.

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A slothful person is a lazy person. He is inactive, indolent, negligent, sleepy and weak. Are you swimming in the ocean of laziness? See what the Bible says in Proverbs 6:6–11

- 6 *Go to the ant, you sluggard!
Consider her ways and be wise,*
- 7 *Which, having no captain,
Overseer or ruler,*
- 8 *Provides her supplies in the summer,
And gathers her food in the harvest.*
- 9 *How long will you slumber, O sluggard?
When will you rise from your sleep?*
- 10 *A little sleep, a little slumber,
A little folding of the hands to sleep—*
- 11 *So shall your poverty come on you like a prowler,
And your need like an armed man.*

Even though the ants have no ruler, they are hardworking. They collect their food in the right season, so they do not lack in times of famine. Nowadays, there are many Christians who are still slumbering.

The Bible tells us to learn our lesson from the ants. You have to work to feed your family and prepare for your future. Stop blaming others for your lack. Wake up and begin doing

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something. The Lord will not bless your laziness. He will only bless the work of your hands.

Many Christians say that there is no need to work hard as Jesus is returning soon. How long will you continue to remain lazy? Do not hide behind the veil of deception. Do not laze around and say you are a full-time Bible student, when you are not registered in any Bible college or preparing anything for the ministry.

Do not think that you can cheat people in this way, going around begging for money. God did not call you into the ministry to be a beggar. Psalm 123:2 says –

*Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters,
As the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
So our eyes look to the LORD our God,
Until He has mercy on us.*

Do not bring shame to the ministry. The Bible warns us in 2 Corinthians 6:3

We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed.

Many Christians have abandoned their families and their responsibilities by pretending to be ministers of the gospel. They want to run away from working to feed their families. A typical man should be able to provide for himself and his immediate family by 30 years old. When he is 35 years, he should have a roof over his family. By 40 years, he should be able to take care of his wife, children and aged parents. There are many people nowadays who have nothing even at the age of 40. There is a saying: “A fool at forty is a fool forever”. How long will you continue to deceive yourself?

Some turn their backs on their aged parents who need their children’s support, citing they have to take care of their ministerial needs first. Others still want their parents to feed them even though they are already adults. May God have mercy on you!

Wake up from your sleep. God wants you to do something. He does not want you to be idle. Many have abandoned their studies halfway and claimed that God has stopped them from their studies, to call them to preach the gospel. It is so easy for them to blame any

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failure on God. Yet all they do is sit at home and laze around. Or they could just pick up their guitar and strum the whole day away. They would still depend on their parents to feed them.

What kind of God are you serving? Do you not think that by doing that, people will begin hurling accusations at your God, such as “If your God is so good, why aren’t you prospering?” or “If your God is so good, how come you can’t even take care of yourself?” See how we bring shame to God!

Church, the time has come for us to wake up from our slumber. Let us learn to work with our hands. Psalm 144:1 says –

*Blessed be the LORD my Rock,
Who trains my hands for war,
And my fingers for battle—*

Let us begin to do something that Jesus may be exalted.

ATTITUDES OF THE LAZY MAN

If we go through the scriptures, we can learn about the attitudes of the lazy man. You may be one of them. If you feel convicted, do not harbour any regrets. If you are indeed a lazy person and just decide to sit there and do nothing, you still have a long way to go. Even if you are in a full-time ministry, it would be a shame for you not to be able to provide for your family. We must live to bring glory to God. Our lives need to prove that God does not short-change anyone.

Proverbs 24:30–34 –

- 30 *I went by the field of the lazy man,
And by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding;*
- 31 *And there it was, all overgrown with thorns;
Its surface was covered with nettles;*

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- Its stone wall was broken down.*
- 32 *When I saw it, I considered it well;
I looked on it and received instruction:*
- 33 *A little sleep, a little slumber,
A little folding of the hands to rest;*
- 34 *So shall your poverty come like a prowler,
And your need like an armed man.*

(1) A LAZY MAN LACKS UNDERSTANDING (Verse 30)

A sluggard is ignorant. He has no courage or mental power to make the right decisions about his work or to carry out his duties. Neither does he know how to prosper through his work. Do not blame God for your laziness.

(2) A LAZY MAN DOESN'T UPGRADE HIMSELF (Verse 31)

A sluggard may have the skills to prosper, but he is not serious to use them. Even if he has a farm or vineyard, he will let it get overgrown or deteriorate. Many people simply do not want to upgrade their skills. Some women say they will just marry and take care of their husbands. A person who just stays where he or she is will stagnate.

Some people refuse godly counsel to upgrade their skills. They say they will just pray for the Lord to promote them without playing their part to upgrade themselves. People cannot make any headway if they do not listen to godly counsel. They do not want the hard work of learning new skills. They refuse to keep up with innovations as unbelievers do. Remember, when you upgrade your skills, it is for you and your family. It will help to raise your income and live a more comfortable life. Taste the goodness of God's blessings.

(3) A LAZY MAN WILL LEAVE HIS ASSETS IN RUINS (Verse 31)

A man who does not upgrade himself will leave his work or career in a state of ruin. A lazy man is always neglectful. When you live in an estate filled with lazy men, you will find the whole value of the estate going down. If you are like that, it is time to change your attitude. There is nothing wrong with acquiring whatever God has promised you.

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You must live up to the standards that God has prepared for you instead of living in utter poverty.

(4) A LAZY MAN LIKES TO SLEEP (Verse 33)

A lazy man would rather sleep or argue than do his essential duties. He would always like to blame others for his failures. Are you such a person? He would always cause problems wherever he works. He would constantly change jobs, companies or departments. He would never be able to start up his own company.

(5) A LAZY MAN WILL BE POOR (Verse 34)

A lazy man would be left in poverty after spending all his money. How long will you remain like this? Stop blaming anyone for your failures and defeats. You are the sole cause. Will you stand for the victory that Jesus has given you? Or will you fall defeated? Get up from your sleep.

There are so many slothful ministers today who cannot even sit down before God to ask for a message. They are struggling with what to preach every day. It is time for you to go before God, let His anointing come upon you for a message to preach. We do not boast in ourselves. We boast of the Lord because we know that the Lord is always good and His ocean of knowledge never runs dry. Those who want to draw from that ocean will receive because He is abundant. He said that out of our bellies shall flow rivers of life. The inflow will bring about the outflow and the outflow will bring about the overflow.

If you are in the ministry, you should pick up yourself from where you have fallen. Tell God, "Lord, I want to move in Your anointing." Whatever ministry you are in, tell Him that you need His glory upon your life so that you can continue to move smoothly. You must be willing to pay the price for delivering strong messages from the pulpit. You should not be jumping from one department to another department, one church to another. Check your life.

2 Corinthians 13:5 says –

Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.

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Even if you are working in the secular world, stop blaming your failures on your boss or anybody else. Blame yourself if you are not prospering. Let all your requests to God be made known through prayer and He will intervene. Even if you are like a cow born without a tail to chase flies away, God will chase away those flies for you. Do what you can and let God do what you cannot for you.

You have to stop blaming others. Even if you get to heaven and question God why you had to live in poverty, He would tell you that He gave you a brain, two eyes, two hands and two legs to work.

**SCRIPTURAL REVELATION
ABOUT THE LAZY MAN**

Read Proverbs 26:13–16 –

- 13 *The lazy man says, “There is a lion in the road!
A fierce lion is in the streets!”*
- 14 *As a door turns on its hinges,
So does the lazy man on his bed.*
- 15 *The lazy man buries his hand in the bowl;
It wearies him to bring it back to his mouth.*
- 16 *The lazy man is wiser in his own eyes
Than seven men who can answer sensibly.*

(1) A LAZY MAN ALWAYS MAKES EXCUSES (Verse 13)

If you tell a lazy man to go to work, he would tell you that there is a lion on the streets that could kill him. If you tell a lazy man to invest in something, he would tell you that his money will be gone. If you tell a lazy man to put his money in a bank, he would tell you that he will keep it in his house. If a fire breaks out in his house, the money will go

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up in flames. If you ask a lazy man to apply for a job, he would tell you that he is under-qualified or unsuited for that job.

A lazy man will always give insensible answers to justify his laziness. Do you always give excuses for your sloth? It is the will of God to bless us but so many of us are too lazy to get up from where we are. Laziness comes like a blanket of deception, you cannot see from under it. Let us continue to bless the Lord for the blessings He has given us. Count your blessings one by one and it will surprise you what the Lord has done for you.

(2) A LAZY MAN DOES NOT PROGRESS (Verse 14)

Just like the hinges on a door which only swivel to and fro, a lazy man gets nowhere. A lazy man does not get up from his bed to take up a useful place in life. He will just continue rolling about in his slumber. Have you ever asked yourself why you are lazing around? What do you have to show for your life? Nothing? Stop kidding yourself. Do not limit yourself to just moving about where you are. It is time for you to be versatile. Get up and do something to bring glory to the name of the Lord. Do not be a curse unto others. If non-believers see how lazy you are, they would not want to know your God.

(3) A LAZY MAN LACKS ENERGY AND DRIVE (Verse 15)

A lazy man just folds his arms and does not do any work. He lacks the energy and dreads to take up any kind of labour. All he does is complain. Even if he changes jobs, he will keep complaining. Unless the spirit of laziness is gone from his life, he will be the same person wherever he goes. You may put a lazy man in the Prime Minister's office and he will still be a lazy man. He will be sacked within a few weeks. Even if you make him the Managing Director of a company and all he has to do is sit in a chair, he will still be too lazy to sit up. The Bible tells us that the lazy man is even too lazy to feed himself. He needs somebody else to feed him. Some may still be too lazy to open their mouth to eat too.

(4) A LAZY MAN THINKS HIMSELF WISE (Verse 16)

Lazy men are always self-centred and think that they are wise. They will never listen to any kind of correction. They are self-contented, always thinking that others are wrong and they are right. They would have their ready made

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answers to any question. They will never reason with you from the right perspective. They will never lend their ears to godly or good counsel. Proverbs 3:7 warns us:

*Do not be wise in your own eyes;
Fear the Lord and depart from evil.*

It is time for us to realise that some of the things that we think to be right may be wrong. Have you ever reached out to God and asked Him, “Am I doing this right?” Assess yourself. If you are a man and not yet married, examine your prospects. Do you hold a good job or are you still struggling in your career? Have you become too lazy and self-centred? Are you always wise in your own eyes? Do you think yourself smarter than seven intelligent people? The hour has come for you to stop being lazy.

A lazy man desires to eat, drink and clothed, but he refuses to work. If you do not work, you do not eat. A lazy man is always envious of those who have accumulated some wealth. This is one of the signs of laziness as he is not happy with other people’s progress. If you are not lazy, you will support another person’s promotion, salary increment or success, instead of running him or her down. Thank God for other people’s progress and success. Ask Him for yours and He will bless you. The will of God is to prosper you and give you enough so you can bless others. God does not bless us so that we may become arrogant. His blessing is to allow us to reach out to others and say, “Lord, bless them too.” Our blessings are also to be used to bless those in need. These are four reasons why we are blessed by God:

- You are blessed to be a blessing
- You are blessed to be a good steward
- You are blessed to be a good distributor
- You are blessed to be more humble

There was a man who approached a pastor to pray for financial breakthrough. God told the pastor to bless the man, so that he will be blessed in return. However, the pastor was initially reluctant to bless the man as he was living by faith. After continuing to pray in tongues for 20 minutes, the pastor obeyed God and blessed the man. Remember, it is always more blessed to give than to receive. Do not stagnate and stay where you are

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without progress. Do not get too comfortable and rot away. Tell God you want to progress and upgrade to a new level.

FACTS OF LAZINESS

(1) LAZY PEOPLE ARE UNTEACHABLE

It is hard to teach a lazy person anything. They will not listen to anything productive you have to say. Nothing registers in their mind or heart. Lazy people will always think they are right. If you try dealing with someone who feels contented, or thinks he is right, or feels he knows everything, you would be wasting your time. They will exhibit indifference and resist any teachings about specific areas they need to change.

(2) LAZY PEOPLE LOVE EXCESSIVE SLEEP

Proverbs 6:9 and 19:15 tell us that a sluggard loves to sleep. "Sleep" does not just refer to the physical state of slumber, but also to their inactivity over important matters. They never go a straight path, but meander here and there. They will never accept good counsel or responsibilities for themselves. They will always blame others for their failures. They will never want to make a difference. God can reach out to you and remove all the roadblocks to your success, if you are willing to work hard. God will do His part if you do your part.

(3) LAZY PEOPLE IRRITATE OTHERS

Proverbs 10:26 says a lazy person is an irritant –

*As vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes,
So is the lazy man to those who send him.*

Lazy people will always provoke others to anger. They will never bring joy or peace to others because of their indifference. They will only irritate people and cause confusion.

(4) LAZY PEOPLE WILL ALWAYS BE SERVANTS

Lazy people will never lead but serve others. Proverbs 12:24 says –

*The hand of the diligent will rule,
But the lazy man will be put to forced labor.*

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The lazy man will only be a servant or labourer because he refuses to upgrade his skills. Two people may start off in the same low position, but the one who works hard will rise in position, while the lazy one stays where he is. Money does not just drop down from heaven. You have to work for it. God will bless you through the work of your hands. Otherwise, you will become a servant to all.

(5) LAZY PEOPLE DO NOTHING WITH THEIR BLESSINGS

Even if something is provided for a lazy man, he does nothing with it. Proverbs 12:27 says –

*The lazy man does not roast what he took in hunting,
But diligence is man's precious possession.*

Lazy people do not take care of themselves.

(6) LAZY PEOPLE ARE WISHFUL THINKERS

Lazy people are day dreamers. Proverbs 13:4 says –

*The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing;
But the soul of the diligent shall be made rich.*

A lazy man may wish he would become a millionaire or attain something he desires, like a luxury car. But he cannot even earn enough to buy himself a bicycle. He has desires for good things but he will never work to see his desires accomplished.

(7) LAZY PEOPLE ARE FILLED WITH TROUBLES

Troubles plague lazy people. Proverbs 15:19 says –

*The way of the lazy man is like a hedge of thorns,
But the way of the upright is a highway.*

Lazy people have neither peace nor joy. They do not rejoice in other people's prosperity. Instead, they would feel jealous or threatened.

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(8) LAZY PEOPLE ARE GREAT WASTERS

Lazy people waste money, time and other resources. Proverbs 18:9 says –

*He who is slothful in his work
Is a brother to him who is a great destroyer.*

Lazy people do not like to work. Proverbs 20:4 says –

*The lazy man will not plow because of winter;
He will beg during harvest and have nothing.*

Even if they need to eat, they see no point in working,

(9) LAZY PEOPLE ALWAYS HAVE EXCUSES

Lazy people always make senseless excuses for their sloth. Proverbs 22:13 says –

*The lazy man says, “There is a lion outside!
I shall be slain in the streets!”*

(10) LAZY PEOPLE LACK UNDERSTANDING

A lazy man lacks understanding. Proverbs 24:30 says –

*I went by the field of the lazy man,
And by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding;*

He would foolishly allow what he has to deteriorate. Proverbs 24:31–34 –

31 *And there it was, all overgrown with thorns;
Its surface was covered with nettles;
Its stone wall was broken down.*

32 *When I saw it, I considered it well;
I looked on it and received instruction:*

33 *A little sleep, a little slumber,
A little folding of the hands to rest;*

34 *So shall your poverty come like a prowler,*

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And your need like an armed man.

(11) LAZY PEOPLE ARE CONCEITED

A lazy man is conceited and thinks he is wiser than others. Proverbs 26:16 says –

*The lazy man is wiser in his own eyes
Than seven men who can answer sensibly.*

(12) LAZY PEOPLE CANNOT BE TRUSTED

Lazy people are unfaithful. Matthew 25:26 says –

“But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed.

Lazy people who lack diligence do not have business acumen. Romans 12:11 says we should be –

...not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;
Lazy people act like unbelievers because they have no faith. Hebrews 6:12 says Christians should take heed –

...that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

WAKE UP FROM YOUR SLUMBER

It is time for those who are lazy to wake up from sleep. Make hay while the sun shines. Read Proverbs 10:4–5, Proverbs 14:23 and Proverbs 20:13. Turn to 2 Thessalonians 3:10–13

10 *For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.*

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- 11 *For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies.*
- 12 *Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread.*
- 13 *But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good.*

Do not deceive yourself. If you do not work, you do not deserve to eat. Get to work and ask God to bless the work of your hands. The Lord says He will command blessings to follow us, as we have stretch out our hands to labour.

Start working today so that the Lord may bless you. Complete the task that He has for you. Finish what you have started. Take responsibility for your life. Do not be religious but be spiritual. Face all the problems of your life head on. Turn your wish into a vision. Let your goal be achieved with your mission.

A lazy man does not have any rest in him. He will always go back to the things he thinks is right in his own eyes. He is hopeless, helpless and worthless. He is of no good to anyone. Rather, he is a trouble-maker who stirs up problems for others or destroys relationships. The call of God upon our lives is not to be lazy. Do not lie to yourself. Ask God to set you free from laziness.

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