

Avoiding Laziness with Wisdom

Proverbs 6:6-11 Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest. 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— and poverty will come on you like a thief and scarcity like an armed man.

What we learn from the ants is that a strong work ethic from collective individuals benefits the whole society.

Humans were made to work from the beginning.

Genesis 2:15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

God is very firm on escaping laziness.

Proverbs 14:23 Hard work always pays off; mere talk puts no bread on the table.

Proverbs 12:11 A hard worker has plenty of food, but a person who chases fantasies has no sense.

Proverbs 21:25 Despite their desires, the lazy will come to ruin, for their hands refuse to work.

A wise person understands the importance of hard work.

There are five things we can learn from the Ant:

- 1. Strength in Numbers: The Power of Collaboration**

Just like the ants, we can all contribute individually to the collective success of the whole body of Christ.

- 2. Planning for the Future: The Importance of Proactive Planning**

The decisions we make now directly affect our future.

3. Carrying the Load: Building Resilience

The picture of resilience in ants inspires us to keep pushing forward regardless of our circumstances, to keep working hard.

4. The Importance of Focus

The elevated significance of being able to keep focused consistently and not letting distractions affect our path.

5. Purpose-Driven Work

We must remember our ultimate purpose. That we work for the Lord – not for man.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the realm of the dead, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom.

Colossians 3:23-24 Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. ²⁴ Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ.

1 Corinthians 10:31 So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

Diligence and hard work are symbols of wisdom. A wise person is a hard worker because they know their decisions and actions today affect their tomorrow.

Laziness leads to poverty and hardship, while wisdom calls us to act with purpose and discipline, blessing both God and others.