

Laziness & Discipline



Getting Started

What are some things that are important to you? School, family, health? How do we get good results in these areas? Can we just be lazy or do whatever we want and expect these things to improve?

Of course not, important areas of life require discipline, hard work and following certain rules. Sometimes we may find that correction is necessary to help us achieve our goal. We must also be willing to face difficulty and challenges to become the best we can be.

Improving Your Vocabulary

discipline (n) - (1) conscious control over one's behavior and lifestyle (2) punishment designed to teach somebody a lesson

envious (adj) - wanting something that others have

reverence (n) - deep respect and devotion

glutton (n) - someone who eats or drinks too much

toil (v) - to work very hard doing unpleasant or tiring tasks

meddle (v) - get involved in something without being asked; to interfere

rebuke (v) - to criticize or correct sharply

qualified (adj) - to have the necessary training and preparation to do a job

equipped (adj) - to have the necessary skills or tools to do something

Reading God's Word

Proverbs 23:17-23

17 Don't be envious of sinful people; let reverence for the Lord be the concern of your life. **18** If it is, you have a bright future. **19** Listen, my child, be wise and give a serious thought to the way you live. **20** Don't associate with people who drink too much wine or stuff themselves with food. **21** Drunkards and gluttons will be reduced to poverty. If all you do is eat and sleep, you will soon be wearing rags. **22** Listen to your father; without him you would not exist. When your mother is old, show her your appreciation. **23** Truth, wisdom, learning, and good sense – these are worth paying for, but too valuable for you to sell.

Paul wrote to the Thessalonians to encourage them to remain steady in their faith in spite of trouble and suffering. He also urged them to work for a living and to continue doing good things.

2 Thessalonians: 3:6-13

6 Our friends, we command you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to keep away from all believers who are living a lazy life and who do not follow the instructions that we gave them. **7b** We were not lazy when we were with you. **8** We did not accept anyone's support without paying for it. Instead, we worked and toiled; we kept working day and night so as not to be an expense to any of you. **9** We did this, not because we do not have the right to demand our support; we did it to be an example for you to follow. **10** While we were with you, we used to tell you,

“Whoever refuses to work is not allowed to eat.” **11** We say this because we hear that there are some people among you who live lazy lives and who do nothing except meddle in other people’s business. **12** In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ we command these people and warn them to lead orderly lives and work to earn their own living. **13** But you, friends, must not become tired of doing good.

2 Timothy 3:15-17

15 ...you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. **16** All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults, and giving instruction for right living, **17** so that the person who serves God may be fully qualified and equipped to do every kind of good deed.

For further study, see Proverbs 6:6-11; Ecclesiastes 10:18; Hebrews 6:11-12; 12:9-11.

Taking a Closer Look

1. What will help us have a bright future? What are some disciplined ways that we should follow in our lives? (Proverbs 23:17-23)

2. What things in life are worth paying for, but too valuable to sell? How can we benefit from these things? (Proverbs 23:23)

3. What does Paul say about lazy people? Why do you think Paul warned them to stay away from people like that? (2 Thessalonians 3:6-13)

4. What example did Paul leave for others to follow? (2 Thessalonians 3:6-13)

5. How can the Bible help us to be more disciplined and successful in life? (2 Timothy 3:14-17)

Taking Action

1. What are some areas of your life where you are too lazy? What discipline might be good for you? Ask God to teach you and give you correction where needed.
2. How can you better respond to correction, punishment, suffering or difficulties in your life?

Memory Verse: Proverbs 20:4

A farmer too lazy to plow his fields at the right time will have nothing to harvest.

Review the Vocabulary

Fill in the blanks with the correct vocabulary words.

1. I wish you wouldn't _____ in other people's business.
2. The boss _____ me strongly. He said if I made that mistake again, I would lose my job.
3. The farmers _____ in the hot sun for hours so they could finish harvesting the rice.
4. The worker was _____ with the tools necessary for the job.
5. Don't be so _____ of other people. Be thankful for the good things that you have.



This English Bible teaching material is prepared and owned by ORTV, Inc.
It may be reproduced for classroom or personal use but may not be published or sold.