

**DIOCESE OF KUBWA [ANGLICAN COMMUNION]
CHAPEL OF GRACE ANGLICAN CHURCH,
NIGERIAN LAW SCHOOL, BWARI, F.C.T**

Sermon on Laziness: "From Slumber to Purpose"

Beloved,

We live in a world that celebrates speed, instant gratification, shortcuts, and easy wins.

Yet quietly within, in many hearts, in many homes, and even in our churches is a dangerous spirit - **laziness**. It doesn't shout, doesn't march in with noise.

Laziness is not always about lying in bed all day. No, it is more than that. It's the voice that says, "*You still have time*" when heaven is urging, "*Move now.*"

It's the decision to delay a phone call you should make, a prayer you should have prayed, a book you should have studied, a dream you've been nursing for years but never started. Laziness disguises itself as rest, as comfort, as "waiting for the right time".

Opening Scripture

Proverbs 6:6-11 (NIV) *"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."*

Laziness is not merely about being tired or needing rest - it's about the spiritual condition of our hearts when we consistently choose comfort over calling, ease over excellence, and procrastination over purpose. This message speaks to every age because laziness manifests differently throughout our lives, but the root issue remains the same: a disconnect between God's design for our lives and our daily choices.

Biblical Definition

- Spiritual apathy - indifference toward God's purposes
- Neglect of responsibility - failing to fulfill our God-given roles
- Wasted potential - not stewarding our gifts and opportunities
- Self-centered living - prioritizing personal comfort over service

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We can point out some attitudes & lifestyles describing laziness

Children (Ages 5-12):

- Avoiding chores and responsibilities
- Procrastinating on homework
- Expecting others to do what they can do themselves
- Choosing entertainment over learning

Youth (Ages 13-18):

- Academic procrastination and underachievement
- Avoiding challenging activities
- Over-dependence on parents for basic tasks
- Choosing immediate pleasure over long-term goals

Adults (Ages 19+):

- Career stagnation and lack of initiative
- Neglecting family responsibilities
- Spiritual complacency
- Financial irresponsibility through poor work habits

THE ROOT CAUSES OF LAZINESS

1. Fear of Failure: Many people choose not to act because they're afraid of not measuring up. Then, laziness becomes a defence mechanism:- if we don't try, we can't fail.

Scripture: *"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and sound mind."* (2 Timothy 1:7)

2. Lack of Vision and Purpose: Without a clear understanding of God's calling on our lives, we drift into patterns of minimal effort.

Scripture: *"Where there is no vision, the people perish."* (Proverbs 29:18 KJV)

3. Comfort Zone Addiction: We become so comfortable with mediocrity that excellence feels foreign and threatening.

Scripture: *"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord."* (Colossians 3:23)

- 4. Spiritual Disconnection** When we're not walking closely with God, we lose the motivation that comes from knowing our work has eternal significance.

Here are the consequences of LAZINESS

Personal Impact

- Poverty of spirit and resources (Proverbs 10:4)
- Missed opportunities (Ecclesiastes 11:4)
- Regret and shame (Proverbs 13:4)
- Deteriorating relationships (Proverbs 18:9)

Family Impact

- Poor example for children - modeling irresponsibility
- Financial strain - inadequate provision
- Emotional burden - others must compensate for our negligence
- Broken trust - reliability becomes questionable

Community and Kingdom Impact

- Unused gifts - the body of Christ suffers when we don't contribute
- Missed evangelism opportunities - our testimony is compromised
- Reduced impact - God's work through us is hindered

HOW CAN WE OVERCOME LAZINESS? BIBLICAL WORK ETHIC

- 1. Understand Work as Worship:** Work is not a curse, it's part of God's original design for humanity. Even before the Fall, Adam was given work to do in the Garden (Genesis 2:15).

Key Principle: When we work with excellence, we reflect God's character as Creator and sustainer.

- 2. Embrace the Ant's Wisdom (Proverbs 6:6-8)**

The ant teaches us:

- Self-motivation - no external supervisor needed
- Seasonal thinking - preparing for future needs
- Consistent effort - small, daily actions compound
- Community benefit - individual work serves the collective good

3. **work with Eternal Perspective**

Scripture: *"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus."* (Colossians 3:17)

Every task, no matter how mundane, can be an act of worship when done for God's glory.

PRACTICAL STEPS TO OVERCOME LAZINESS...

Children:

1. Create age-appropriate chore charts with clear expectations
2. Teach the connection between effort and reward
3. Model diligent work in your own tasks
4. Celebrate progress and effort, not just results
5. Use biblical stories of hard-working characters (Joseph, Ruth, Nehemiah)

For Youth:

1. Help them discover their gifts and calling
2. Set challenging but achievable goals together
3. Teach time management and organizational skills
4. Connect their current work to future opportunities
5. Encourage service projects that benefit others

For Adults:

- Start small - build momentum with achievable wins
- Focus on consistency over perfection
- Pray for motivation and strength daily
- Remember your "why" - the deeper purpose behind your work
- Celebrate progress to maintain motivation

JESUS AS OUR EXAMPLE - Jesus demonstrated perfect diligence:

- **He was about His Father's business** from an early age (Luke 2:49)
- **He worked as a carpenter** before His ministry (Mark 6:3)
- **He was constantly serving others** during His ministry
- **He completed the work** the Father gave Him to do (John 17:4)

Christ didn't just avoid laziness; He embodied purposeful, sacrificial work that served others and glorified God.

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While we must address laziness seriously, we must also remember that our worth isn't determined by our productivity. God's love for us is not based on our performance. However, because of His love, He calls us to live up to our potential and use our gifts for His glory and others' benefit.

Scripture: *"For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose."* (Philippians 2:13)

The opposite of laziness isn't being busy, it's purposeful diligence. God has created each of us with unique gifts, placed us in specific circumstances, and given us opportunities to make a difference. When we choose to live with intention, work with excellence, and serve with love, we not only honor God but also experience the joy and fulfillment that comes from living according to His design.

The ant doesn't work in a hypocritical way; it works faithfully.

It doesn't work for applause; it works because that's its nature. As followers of Christ, diligent work should be our nature too—not because we have to earn God's love, but because we want to reflect His character and advance His kingdom.

Closing Prayer

"Lord, forgive us for the times we've chosen comfort over calling, ease over excellence. Help us to see work as worship, responsibility as privilege, and diligence as discipleship. Give us the strength to overcome laziness and the wisdom to work with purpose. May our lives reflect Your character and advance Your kingdom. In Jesus' name, Amen."