

Zacharias Tanee Fomum

**Deliverance**

**from the sin**

**OF LAZINESS**





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## Deliverance From The Sin of Laziness

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Unless otherwise stated, the Bible quotations in this book are from the Revised Standard Version of the Holy Bible, the British Edition.

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*I Lovingly Dedicate This Book to*

***ALL THE LAZY PEOPLE***

*Who Will no Longer be Lazy After Reading And Obeying its Message*



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## **Preface**

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This book is the eighth in the series, “Practical Helps For Overcomers.” The books in this series include the following:

**Book 01: The Use of Time**

**Book 02: Retreats for Spiritual Progress**

**Book 03: Personal Spiritual Revival**

**Book 04: Daily Dynamic Encounters with God**

**Book 05: The School of Truth**

**Book 06: How to Succeed in the Christian Life**

**Book 07: Banking in Heaven (The Christian and Money)**

**Book 08: Deliverance From The Sin Of Laziness**

**Book 09: The Art of Working Hard**

**Book 10: Knowing God: The Greatest Need of the Hour**

**Book 11: Restitution : An Important Message for the Overcomers**

**Book 12: Revelation: A Must!**

**Book 13: True Repentance**

**Book 14: You Can Receive A Pure Heart Today!**

**Book 15: You Can Lead Someone to the Lord Jesus Today**

**Book 16: The Overcomer as a Servant of Man**

**Book 17: Be Filled with the Holy Spirit**

**“The trend today is to seek the path of least resistance, and when the going gets difficult, give up.”**

Larry Burkett

That is a good description of a lazy person: the one who seeks the path of least resistance and who gives up when things get difficult.

Most of the world is lazy. Too many believers are idle. Few attain their God-given potential. The Kingdom suffers because of the too many spectators who are said to be soldiers in the army of the Lord.

The loss to God, to the Kingdom of God, and to the lazy person that is caused by the sin of laziness, is beyond measure. Must things continue that way? I do not think so.

Laziness is a deadly sin.

The one who commits this sin can be delivered.

That is what this book is about.

May the Lord bless you as you read it! Amen.

20th September, 1988.

Zacharias Tanee Fomum

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## LAZINESS: WHAT IT IS

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## **Laziness Is Rebellion**

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The Lord created man to be

*“fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth” (Genesis 1:28).*

The duty given to man was clearly spelt out:

Be fruitful.

Multiply.

Fill the earth.

Subdue the earth.

Have dominion.

The Lord expects all who are His to

be fruitful in all they are and do,  
multiply all that He has given them,  
fill the earth with all that He has given them,  
subdue the earth,  
have dominion over all that is on earth.

Adam was put into the garden

*“to till it and keep it” (Genesis 2:15).*

In order to be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, subdue it and have dominion over:

self,  
the fish of the sea,  
the birds of the air,  
every living thing that moves upon the earth,

man had to work hard. Without hard work, it is impossible to obey this command of God.

Unless you work hard, it is impossible to fulfil this command of God.

The Lazy person cannot be

fully fruitful

fully multiply

fully fill the earth

fully subdue the earth

fully have dominion.

God has made available to each one of His children all that he needs to fully develop, take full control of himself and accomplish his God-assigned task in fruitfulness, multiplication, filling the earth, subduing it and having dominion over it.

Every believer who is not really what God meant him to be in the above areas has chosen not to be that. He has chosen not to put all that he is and all that he has, working with all the energy that God has given him to obey this command of God.

Those who do not obey God or who obey Him only partially are disobedient. All those who are lazy are disobedient to the first command that God gave to man.



# **LAZINESS IS DISOBEDIENCE TO GOD'S COMMAND.**

The Bible says,

*“Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry” (I Samuel 15:22-23).*

The lazy person is in rebellion

The lazy person is committing a sin that is as serious before God as divination.

The lazy person is committing a sin that is as serious before God as idolatry.

**LAZINESS IS REBELLION AGAINST THE LORD GOD.**

**LAZINESS IS LIKE DIVINATION.**

**LAZINESS IS LIKE IDOLATRY.**

LAZINESS IS THE WORSHIP OF SELF INSTEAD OF GOD.

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## **Laziness Is An Attempt To Overthrow God!**

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The Lord reigns in heaven unchallenged.

When people on earth surrender themselves completely and obey Him in everything, they establish His reign in their hearts and then labour at establishing it on earth.

The lazy person has decided consciously or unconsciously that he does not want to fully co-operate with God so that God reigns totally in his life and in his world.

The lazy person has another god called the “self.” This god rules him. This god is on the throne of his heart. This god desires attention and worship. This god says:

*“I want ease.”*

*“I want to relax.”*

*“I want to enjoy sleep, more sleep.”*

*“Do not disturb my reign.”*

*“Come afterwards, at my convenience.”*

This god “self” is afraid to yield totally to God because if he yields, that is the end of his own reign.

There is a conflict between the God of heaven and the god “self.” The Bible says,

*“For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you would” (Galatians 5:17).*

God ordained that man should work hard.

God ordained that man should work very hard.

God ordained that man should work extremely hard.

God ordained that man should work extremely hard in putting the god “self” out of the way; so that His Kingdom may be established over the total man in his environment.

LAZINESS IS RESISTING THIS DESIRE OF GOD.

LAZINESS ALLOWS THE GOD “SELF” TO REIGN.

LAZINESS IS AN ATTEMPT TO OVERTHROW GOD.

If you are lazy, you have decided to overthrow God. I want you to be honest with yourself. Ask yourself, “Am I lazy?” If you are not sure of the answer, ask the Lord, “Am I lazy?” He will let you know the truth.

If you find out that you are lazy, then you have been attempting to overthrow God; for the way to co-operate with God is to work hard. The Lord Jesus said,

*“My Father is working still, and I am working” (John 5:17).*

The Father is working still, building the Kingdom.

The Lord Jesus is working still, building the Kingdom.

THE LAZY ARE LABOURING TO OVERTHROW GOD.

THE LAZY ARE SCATTERING.

ARE YOU ONE OF THEM?

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## **Laziness Is Co-Operation With Satan**

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God is working hard, building the Kingdom.

The Lord Jesus is working hard, co-operating with God in building the Kingdom.

The Holy Spirit is working hard, co-operating with God in building the Kingdom.

Hard-working believers are working hard, co-operating with God in building the Kingdom.

The devil (Satan) is working hard to overthrow the Kingdom of God. Demons are working hard, co-operating with Satan to overthrow the Kingdom of God and build the ill-fated kingdom of Satan.

Unbelievers are working hard, co-operating with Satan actively or passively, to build the kingdom of Satan and overthrow that of God.

Lazy believers are serving as Satan's agents. Satan looks at them and says, "These are my special agents. The fact that they are apparently in the other camp does not matter. Actually, it advances our cause more that they be there than that they be here. If they were here, directly on our side, the Enemy (the Lord Jesus) and the Church would not count on them and would build a strategy that does not include them. However, now that they are there and are lazy, they take up space and opportunities that would have been taken up by the militant servants of Christ. They are counted upon to work and to fight, but they are lazy and won't fight and won't work. They are counted upon, but all they do is to deceive. They are counted upon, but all they do is to stand in the way. They are counted upon, but they cannot do anything against us. If they try to do anything, they are either so slow, so purposeless, so easily distracted, so easily given up to tiredness, etc, that their efforts amount to nothing. They are indeed on our side. They co-operate with us. They are indispensable for our success. They do more good for us than unbelievers. They belong to our special regiment. Everything must be done to ensure that it is not realized that they are on our side. Everything must be done to ensure that they give more and more reasons why they are unproductive or under-productive. Everything must be done to make them believe that those who are working hard are doing so for base reasons. Everything must be done to make them think that, by being lazy, they have chosen the better place of being at Jesus' feet instead of being "busy Martha." The greater their number, the better. We desperately need them, these lazy Christians, not only in the rank and file but among the captains and generals. Lazy Christian leaders serve our purposes more than one hundred leaders who are unbelievers."

If you are lazy, you are co-operating with Satan. You are his agent. The Lord Jesus taught, saying,

*"He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters" (Matthew 12:30).*



LAZY BELIEVER, YOU ARE AGAINST THE HARD-WORKING CHRIST;  
YOU ARE SCATTERING AND YOU ARE CO-OPERATING WITH SATAN.  
YOU ARE A SPY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST. YOU ARE MORE USEFUL  
TO SATAN THAN AN UNBELIEVER. YOU MAY GIVE EXCUSES, BUT  
THEY WILL ONLY SERVE TO CONFIRM THE FACTS!

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## **Laziness Is Attempting Murder**

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The Lord told Adam to till the garden of Eden and keep it. He was also told,

*“In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life” (Genesis 3:17).*

There is enough land on the Planet Earth and enough seas and rivers with fish to feed billions upon billions of human beings. The fertile lands and the rivers and seas from which fish can be gotten are not evenly distributed. The Lord expects that those who are placed in lands that are agricultural or within reach of fishing facilities should work very hard and, thereby, supply their own needs as well as have some available for those whose land is not suitable for farming, or who have no seas and rivers with fish. The Bible says,

*“Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labour, doing honest work with his hands, so that he may be able to give to those in need” (Ephesians 4:28).*

If you are healthy and have farm land around you and yet you are idle, you are doing great evil. The blood of those who are dying from starvation could be upon you, for, had you worked hard, there would have been food to send to them. If you are lazy and yet eat food that is the fruit of the hard work of others,

you are a thief. Can you imagine

an Ethiopian

a Sudanese

or other starving and dying people

crying on the Judgment Day and saying,

*“If you had worked hard, food would have come to me and I would not have starved to death. If I had not starved and, consequently, died prematurely, the gospel of God’s salvation through the Lord Jesus would have reached me, and I would have been saved. Because you were lazy, I died before the gospel reached me. BECAUSE YOU WERE LAZY, I AM LOST; I AM IN HELL.”*

Think of another soul that might be languishing in hell and crying out, “If you had worked harder, you would have earned more money and invested more into the work of the Lord. That extra money would have enabled the gospel to get to me. I would have believed in the Lord Jesus and been saved. My life on earth and now would have been very different, but BECAUSE YOU WERE LAZY, YOU COULD NOT GIVE THAT EXTRA SUM THAT WAS NEEDED FOR THE MINISTRY, AND THE GOSPEL NEVER REACHED ME. BECAUSE YOU WERE LAZY, I AM LOST; I AM IN HELL. MY BLOOD IS UPON YOU! YOUR LAZINESS MURDERED ME!

Think about it. The Bible says,

*“He who is slack in his work is a brother to him who destroys” (Proverbs 18:9).*

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## LAZINESS: ITS CAUSES

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## **Laziness Caused By Negative Comparison**

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There are too many people who are lazy because they compare themselves negatively with others. In the parable of the talents, the master gave five talents to one servant, two to the other servant and one to the third. The servant who had the one talent failed to multiply it. He might have asked, "Why have they given me one talent? Others have been given more." Because he compared himself with others, he concluded that he was not loved as the others were and, therefore, did nothing about multiplying his talent.

Is that the reason for your laziness? Are you comparing yourself with others and saying:

*"I am not as educated as the others."*

*"I do not have the spiritual gifts that others have."*

*"I do not have the opportunities that others have."*

*Etc?*

As long as you continue to compare yourself with others, you will continue to be lazy. There never will be a day when you will not find someone who is "better" than you.

God has given you all that you need to do that which He has given you to do in the body of Christ. You do not need the gift or the gifts of another because you are very special and have been given what you need for your special duties. The others have been given their gifts and opportunities to use for your service.

Have you ever thought about the one or the people who do not have what you have? You are not the very last. If you are reading this book, it must mean that you have what many people do not have.

You have eyes. Some are blind.

You can read. Multitudes cannot.

You have access to this book. Others do not.

You are alive. Many are dead.

If you continue to compare yourself with others, you are rebelling against God. The Bible says,

*“Who are you, a man, to answer back to God? Will what is moulded say to its moulder, ‘Why have you made me thus?’ Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for beauty and another for menial use?” (Romans 9:20-21).*



God has not given you what He has given others, partly for the reason that He wants to see if you can be faithful with a little. Normally, He tests people with a little and those who pass the test are given more. By being lazy, you have stood in the way of being given more by God.

Think of your laziness in childhood.

Think of your laziness in the Primary School.

Think of your laziness in the Secondary School.

Think of your laziness at the University.

Think of your laziness at the first job.

Think of your laziness when you were called to help.

Think of your laziness when you had an opportunity to witness.

Think of your laziness when you were given a young convert to build up.

Think of your laziness in praying.

Think of your laziness in Bible study.

Think of the many books you started to read but never went through.

Think of the many relationships that you started but failed to build.

### **IS IT FAIR TO COMPARE YOURSELF WITH OTHERS?**

Will you be honest to acknowledge that part of the difference is that they were faithful with a little while you were unfaithful? Will you be honest to acknowledge that you have not made the most of the opportunities that God has allowed to come your way?

Ought you not to repent?

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## **Laziness Caused By A Poor Self-Image**

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God created man to be His co-worker. When man sinned, God redeemed him and elevated him to a position much higher than where he would have been, had he not fallen. He made redeemed man into His son and put all of Himself and all of His power at his disposal. Then God made resources available to man which could, when fully exploited, do all the work that God intended for him to do perfectly.

You were made to be able to perfectly satisfy the heart of God in the things to which He has called you. He has made all the resources available.

If you despise yourself and despise the resources that God has made available, or refuse to use the resources that God has made available to you, you will continue in your lazy condition.

You are a son of God.

You are indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

You have the wonderful resources of prayer open to you. God says to you,

*“Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession” (Psalm 2:8).*

He insists,

*“If you ask anything in my name, I will do it” (John 14:14).*

Is your laziness rooted in the fact that you do not think that God will answer you?

He says,

*“Ask, and it will be given you; seek and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you. For every one who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened” (Luke 11:9-10).*

Do you see the word “everyone”?

Are you not included in that “everyone”?

If you have believed in the Lord Jesus, then you are included. God has included you. Do not exclude yourself.

Your poor self-image may be caused by what you have often confessed with your lips. The Lord said to the children of Israel,

*“What you have said in my hearing I will do to you” (Numbers 14:28).*

That is a deep truth. God does to people what they say to His hearing. He hears what you say to yourself, in your heart, about yourself. He hears what you say to others about yourself. He hears what you say to others about yourself that is an accusation of Him. He hears all, and He does to you as you say.

If the Lord says of His,

*“You are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you” (Psalm 82:6).*

You can believe Him and move into the future in the confidence that He has given you, or you can continue to doubt yourself and remain in your lazy condition. THE CHOICE IS YOURS.

The Psalmist questioned,

*“When I look at the heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars which thou hast established; what is man that thou art mindful of him, and the son of man that thou dost care for him? Yet thou hast made him little less than God, and dost crown him with glory and honour. Thou hast given him dominion over the work of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet” (Psalm 8:3-6).*

FOR GOD TO MAKE YOU A LITTLE LESS THAN HIMSELF AND TO CROWN YOU WITH GLORY AND HONOUR, AND TO GIVE YOU DOMINION OVER THE WORKS OF HIS HANDS AND TO PUT ALL THINGS UNDER YOUR FEET, YET TO SEE YOU THINKING AND SPEAKING SO BADLY OF YOURSELF, IS TO SIN AGAINST HIM IN A MOST SERIOUS WAY.

Let me ask you a question: Who knows you better, God or yourself? Whose testimony of you is better, yours or that of God? AGAIN, THE CHOICE IS YOURS.

## Laziness Caused By Sin

There are people who worked very hard before and were blessed by the Lord. Instead of continuing to walk in holiness they chose the pathway of sin. They committed sin and that was their end.

Sin has the tragic power to destroy a man in his spirit, soul and body. The Psalmist cried,

*“O Lord, rebuke me not in thy anger, nor chasten me in thy wrath! For thy arrows have sunk into me, and thy hand has come down on me. There is no soundness in my flesh because of thy indignation; there is no health in my bones because of my sin. For my iniquities have gone over my head; they weigh like a burden too heavy for me. My wounds grow foul and fester because of foolishness, I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; all the day I go about mourning. For my loins are filled with burning, and there is no soundness in my flesh. I am utterly spent and crushed; I groan because of the tumult of my heart. Lord, all my longing is known to thee, my sighing is not hidden from thee. My heart throbs, my strength fails me; and the light of my eyes - it also has gone from me” (Psalm 38:1-10).*

David sinned and was sick in heart, soul and body. The light of his eyes, that is, his vision, was gone. It is difficult for a man without vision to be anything apart from lazy. He has nothing to motivate, to inspire and to stir him on. Sin is an

enemy to vision - to spiritual vision. When the devil wants to take away a man's spiritual vision, he causes him to commit some sin, and keeps him there. Then the person will confess that he is done for, his vision will vanish or he will give away the vision, considering himself no longer fit.

Has the devil gotten you to commit any sin? Before, you never imagined that you, being so spiritual, could fall into such a sin, but you have fallen and fallen indeed.

Two pathways are open to you. You can repent of your sin, confess your sin, carry out restitution and believe that God has forgiven you; and then forgive yourself and move on, out of your fallen and lazy condition, or continue to weep and cry out in self-love and self-pity. The Bible says,

*“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).*

I do not see that there is Biblical ground for anyone to continue to weep and sorrow after he has confessed his sin to God and been forgiven and restored by God, and confessed it to man and been forgiven and restored by man. Such a restored one must shake off the past, rejoice in the Lord and not allow the devil another opportunity to rejoice.

THE DEVIL REJOICES MORE WHEN BELIEVERS CONTINUE TO MOURN OVER THEIR SIN THAN HE DID WHEN THEY SINNED. HE REJOICES WHEN BELIEVERS CONTINUE TO BE SORROWFUL AND UNABLE TO GET BACK TO THEIR WORK FOR THE LORD LONG AFTER THEY HAVE BEEN RESTORED. HE REJOICES MORE WHEN BELIEVERS DELAY RESTORING ONE WHO HAS BEEN RESTORED BY



THE LORD WHILE THEY WAIT FOR THE DURATION OF TIME  
ESTABLISHED BY THEIR RELIGIOUS SYSTEM TO ELAPSE, THAN HE  
DID OVER THE ACTUAL SIN.

## Laziness Caused By Accusation Of God

Those who believe God work hard. Those who do not believe God, who are ungrateful, who accuse Him, are often lazy. One such person in the Bible said to his master,

*“I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours” (Matthew 25:24-25).*

Laziness is a testimony to the fact that a person has something in his heart against God the Father. It could be some bitterness for one reason or the other. There are people who, instead of looking their failures in the face and doing what they should do about them, seek to throw the blame on someone else, especially on God. Such people may ask,

*“Why did God allow me to be born in a poor country?”*

*“Why did God not make me be more intelligent than I am?”*

*“Why did God allow my father or mother to die?”*

*“Why did God not make me pass my examination?”*

*“Why did God cause me to fail?”*

*“Why did God take away my husband?”*

*“Why did God not give me a wife?”*

*“Why did God allow me to look so old?”*

*“Why did God allow me to get into that accident?”*

By asking so many questions, the individual becomes bitter and, as he grows bitter, he becomes lazy and purposeless. In the parable of the talents the lazy servant accused the master,

*“I know you to be a hard man.”*

*“I know you to reap where you did not sow.”*

*“I know you to gather where you did not winnow.”*

*“Since I know you to be what you are, I decided that you should neither reap where you did not sow nor gather where you did not winnow. I, therefore, hid your talent in the ground so that you may have just what you gave me.”*

This servant was unwilling to co-operate with the master so that the master should have more profit. Little did he know that as his master profited he, too, would profit. It is like a hand saying to the other, “I will not wash you, lest you profit and become clean,” forgetting that as that hand becomes clean it, too, will become clean, having been washed at the same time that it was washing the other. More so, God can do without your working hard. He benefits nothing from it. You are the one to benefit. If you do not work hard, if you are lazy, the loss is 100% yours. He loses nothing. His

glory,

splendour,

power,

majesty

are not reduced by anything at all if you refuse to work hard. There are billions of angels who labour in praising Him, and there are others to whom He will just take the one talent from you and give to them. He will give your opportunity and privilege to serve Him to another and the loss will be yours throughout time and eternity.

Are you bitter against God?

Do you accuse Him of anything?

Do you have any problem in confessing that He has been good to you, that He has excellent plans for you, that His plans for you are better than any that you could ever formulate for yourself?

Job once questioned. He was righteous in his own eyes. He justified himself. The Lord did not take this lightly. The Bible says,

*“Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind: ‘Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me. Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements - surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?’” (Job 38:1-7).*

God is addressing you who are bitter against Him and question and challenge Him with the thoughts of your heart and the words of your lips. He says to you,

*“Shall a faultfinder contend with the Almighty? He who argues with God, let him answer it” (Job 40:2).*

Do you see that you, too, like Job need to cry out to Him in deep contrition and deep repentance, saying,

*“Behold, I am of small account; what shall I answer thee? I lay my hand on my mouth. I have spoken once, and I will not answer; twice, but I will proceed no further” (Job 40:3-5).*

The Lord may further take you to task as He took Job, probing,

*“Gird up your loins like a man; I will question you, and you declare to me. Will you even put me in the wrong? Will you condemn me that you may be justified?”*

*Have you an arm like God, and can you thunder with a voice like his? Deck yourself with majesty and dignity; clothe yourself with glory and splendour. Pour forth the overflowings of your anger, and look on every one that is proud, and abase him. Look on every one that is proud, and bring him low; and tread down the wicked where they stand. Hide them all in the dust together; bind their faces in the world below. Then will I also acknowledge to you, that your own right hand can give you victory.” (Job 40:7-14).*

Will you not, with Job, plead,

*“I know that thou canst do all things, and that no purpose of thine can be thwarted...Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know..... I had heard of thee by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees thee; therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes” (Job 42:2-6).*

Won't you, too, repent in dust and ashes?

Please do, and He will shine His favour on you. You will then be released from your bitterness and folly and begin to work hard again. You will then be released from your blindness and begin to see again. Amen.

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## **Laziness Caused By Despair Because Of Lost Opportunities**

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There are some who were once involved with the Lord in concentrated and useful service, then they got into trouble through

sin,

making a mistake,

poor planning,

or some other failure

that resulted in major set-backs. When the Lord, in His wondrous love and mercy, cleared up things so that they could begin to do useful service again, they despaired, gave up hope and sank into deep self-pity and uselessness. They deteriorated and went nowhere. All hope seemed gone.

Although such seem to acknowledge that they have been forgiven and restored, they nevertheless live under the guilt of lost opportunities and lost years of service. They may say,

“I have wasted

five

ten

fifteen

twenty

thirty years.

I am already

thirty

forty

fifty

sixty

seventy

eighty

years old. What can I still do for the Lord? I will just wait for death and die and, by God’s grace, be saved as though through fire (1 Corinthians 3:15). As for useful service, it is too late. I have wasted my life. I have lost everything.”



This way of thinking is initiated by the Enemy who wants to keep you in permanent bondage. Remember, however old you may be, regardless of how many opportunities and how many years you have lost, God is not finished with you. The Bible says,

*“For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me; when you seek me with all your heart, I will be found by you, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes....” (Jeremiah 29:11-14).*

God can work this out for you, even if you are eighty, ninety or a hundred years old. He can restore your fortunes. You can come to Him, call upon Him and be blessed by Him. Will you give up your despair and come to Him and pray to Him?

The Lord has promised the following:

*“I will restore to you the years which the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent among you” (Joel 2:25).*

God is promising to restore to you the years which the swarming locusts of sin, the hopper of indulgence, the destroyer of laziness and the cutter of “self” have eaten up. It may be

ten

twenty

thirty

fifty

years that have been eaten up. However, the Lord of miracles is able to restore them to you if you will stop despairing and come back to living and hard work.

You may be asking how He will do it. I cannot tell you. All I know is that He never promises anything that He cannot do. What He promises to do, He is able to do. What He is able to do, He will do if you co-operate with Him and do as He demands.

Is anything too hard for Him? Can He not accomplish all His purpose? The one who caused the sun to stand still so that Joshua His servant should win a battle still holds the universe in His hand. The Bible says,

*“Then spoke Joshua to the Lord in the day when the Lord gave the Amorites over to the men of Israel; and he said in the sight of Israel, ‘Sun, stand thou still at Gibeon, and thou Moon in the valley of Aijalon.’ And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the nation took vengeance on their enemies” (Joshua 10:12-13).*

The Lord who caused the shadow to go back ten steps as a sign to Hezekiah is able to restore the years lost. Believe Him. God can work with you and use you

even now in a way that satisfies His heart. Dear one, draw comfort from the following passage and get back to serving the Lord:

*“The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: ‘Arise, and go down to the potter’s house, and there I will let you hear my words.’ So I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was working at his wheel. And the vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter’s hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do. Then the word of the Lord came to me: ‘O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter has done? says the Lord. Behold, like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. If at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, and if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will repent of the evil that I intended to do to it’” (Jeremiah 18:1-8).*

You are the clay. The Lord intended making you into one vessel. Through your fault things did not work that way. You have repented. You are still in His hands. He wants to make you into another vessel as it seems good to Him. The second vessel is likely going to be better. You will be transformed and brought into glory that you would not have known had you not failed, because you are broken, and God delights to use broken vessels. Amen.

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## LAZINESS: ITS MANIFESTATIONS

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## **Laziness Manifested In Indecision**

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One of the greatest capacities that the Lord gave man is the power of decision. Throughout Scripture people are expected to choose: to make decisions. The Lord expects this capacity to be developed, strengthened and used for His glory.

The lazy person, by a constant refusal to take decisions, for fear of the consequence of decision-making, which is decision-execution, leaves this capacity to suffer from disuse.

You will find this in men who spend all their lives looking for a woman to marry but are never able to decide and propose to one. You will also find this in women who remain single because they could not make up their minds as to whether or not to accept the offer that was made to them.

Because the lazy person is afraid of taking the consequences of his decisions upon himself, he can easily throw away the responsibility on another and say,

*“Please decide for me.”*

*“Choose for me.”*

*“I will accept whatever you decide.”*

Such an attitude should not be taken for loyalty. It is not. Proof of it is the fact that when they ask someone to decide for them and he takes a decision that places them in circumstances in which they have to work hard, they will rebel actively or passively. What they were really saying was,

*“Decide that I should be at ease.”*

*“Decide and place me in circumstances in which the god I worship, ‘self,’ will be most comfortable.”*

*Because of this unwillingness to decide, most lazy people go nowhere.*

*They are a tragic failure.*

They have buried their talents, and buried they will remain until God does something!

Lord, do it.

Amen.

■

## **Laziness Manifested In Goallessness**

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The Bible says,

*“She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness” (Proverbs 31:27).*

*“The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but every one who is hasty comes only to want” (Proverbs 21:5).*

*“He who tills his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits will have plenty of poverty” (Proverbs 28:19).*

It is characteristic of lazy people that they are without any clear goals. They may today want to be one thing. Tomorrow they will want something quite different, and the third day they may desire another thing altogether. The only thing they desire consistently is the opportunity to relax, rest and be at ease.



They have no overriding goal. If you talk to them about goals, they will say: “Goals are not for me. I have lived my life this way and succeeded. Why should I change?” Other lazy people will say,

*“I have my goal. It is a secret between God and myself. Why should I tell you?” Others will say, “I made goals before and failed miserably and felt guilty. I do not want to subject myself to any condition that could produce the same results and the same effects. Let others make goals and accomplish them for us all.”*

They are too lazy to ask, “Lord, what would You have me do?”

They are too lazy to think clearly.

They are too lazy to analyse their strengths.

They are too lazy to analyse their weaknesses.

They are too lazy to make a plan.

They are too lazy to commit themselves to someone, for fear that he may demand hard work and discipline.

They are too lazy to commit themselves to one project for long.

They know that a goal would force them to

think

concentrate

work hard

press on

overcome difficulties

face challenges.

Knowing this, they do everything to run away from a goal. They are also afraid that a goal will expose them for what they are. They hide in goallessness.

They have no fixed time of waking up. They hide behind the phrase, “The Lord will wake me up at the appropriate time.” However, when given food they will not say, “The Lord will tell me when I am to eat it.”

If they see the danger of goallessness, they will say, “I am seeking God for my life’s call and goal.” They will say it today in

six months

one year

two years

five years.

They may say it for twenty years until death comes and puts an end to their purposeless lives. They have ruined themselves through goallessness.

They would have squandered the two greatest resources on this side of heaven: human potential and time.

What a waste! What a tragedy!!

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## **Laziness Manifested In Sluggishness**

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The Bible says,

*“As a door turns on its hinges, so does a sluggard on his bed. The sluggard buries his hand in a dish; it wears him out to bring it back to his mouth” (Proverbs 26:14-15).*

The Bible again says,

*“He who is slack in his work is a brother to him who destroys” (Proverbs 18:9).*

*“A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich” (Proverbs 10:4).*

*“The sluggard does not plough in the autumn; he will seek at harvest and have nothing” (Proverbs 20:4).*

*“The soul of the sluggard craves, and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied” (Proverbs 13:4).*

*“The desire of the sluggard kills him for his hands refuse to labour” (Proverbs 21:25).*

One characteristic of lazy people is the speed at which they do things. They seem to live outside time, except when it is time to commit the sin of laziness. They do everything slowly.

They are slow to get up from a seat. Even if they are slim, they take a long time to pull themselves up from a seat.

They waste time in sitting down.

They waste time in opening a book.

They waste time in opening their mouths. When they are asked a question, it is as if kilograms of lead had been tied to the upper and the lower lips, so that they seem to be trying to overcome this weight before their mouths can be open. They speak lazily.

They walk lazily. Their legs appear to be so heavy that they have to make an effort before they can lift them and place them on the next spot.

The Bible says that they bury their hands in the dish. They seem unable to lift a spoon quickly, plunge it into food, take some quickly and put it quickly into their mouths.

In dealing with lazy people, you might have to ask the same question to them several times before their words are slowly formed and flow out as an answer.

They write very slowly.

They dress very slowly. They sing slowly.

They drive very slowly, not because they are careful, but because they cannot press the accelerator with firmness.

They greet slowly and are too lazy to give a firm and warm handshake.

Even if things are late and there is need to hurry, they will do things at the speed of fast snails.

They are filled with self-love. They do not want to put in the extra energy that is needed for things to go fast. If you force them to speak fast, they will either

stammer or do it for then, and then sink back to being themselves.

They are slack in their work because they do not want to exert themselves.

From the time they wake up from sleep to the time they are out of bed may take thirty minutes. First of all, they take a long time to stretch themselves in bed. Then it takes a number of minutes to get off the blanket and the sheets. And they sluggishly pull themselves up and sit in bed. They take minutes to yawn. Then they struggle and bring one leg from the bed and even then it takes minutes before this leg can get to the floor, and another couple of minutes before that leg can find the slipper. Then the process is repeated for the other leg, and then the body is slowly lifted up out of bed as if 100 kilograms of sand were tied to his back.

That is a lazy person! The result is that he does in twenty-four hours what could have been accomplished in two hours. He will, consequently, accomplish only one-twelfth of his life's work!!!

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## **Laziness Manifested In Majoring In Minors**

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If a man has ten things to do in a day, he will do the things according to some order of priority that he has established in his own mind.

Some of the things will be difficult, demanding hard work, and many will be unpleasant to do. However, these difficult and unpleasant things are of greater consequence to the Kingdom of God than the easier ones. The lazy person will choose to do the easy things first. He will deceive himself that he wants to do them first in order to concentrate on the more difficult and the more important things. This looks like good reasoning, but the truth is that, because he is lazy, he is running away from the difficult but important things that need to be done. As he concentrates on the things of minor importance, he soon finds that all his time has been used up. He has majored in minors.

Let me illustrate it this way: In an examination, there will be simple questions and difficult questions. The simple questions will carry a few marks and the difficult questions will carry many marks. The following is an example:

question

1. = 1 mark



2. = 1 mark

3. = 1 mark

4. = 2 marks

5. = 2 marks

6. = 3 marks

7. = 4 marks

8. = 6 marks

The hard-working person will start by tackling question 8, then 7, then 6, then 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1. If after he has finished four questions the time is up, he will have tried to obtain 15 marks. If his answers are correct, he will have 15 marks. The lazy person will start with question 1, then 2, then 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. If he answers six questions by the time the examination is over, he will have a total of only ten marks.

It should not be thought that the choice was accidental. In the heart of lazy people there is a deep desire for ease, for pleasure, for relaxation. In their hearts is a desire to run away from that which is

demanding

challenging

exerting.

This desire causes them to prefer easy things.

In the spiritual realm lazy people prefer:

testimonies

messages of encouragement

fellowship meetings,

to books on

doctrine

discipleship

prayer and fasting

sacrifice.

In the morning they will decide to

write a letter of encouragement

sing a song

etc,

instead of

reading the Bible

praying

interceding.

At a deeper level, they prefer to read the Bible instead of praying; for prayer, real prayer, is the hardest work on earth.

Lazy people also choose lazy postures. They kneel by their beds with a warm blanket to pray and, of course, they sleep. They lie in bed to read the Bible and other books. They would not take notes because taking notes means getting a note book, sitting up and writing.

Lazy people have an inner yearning for ease, ease, ease; pleasure, pleasure, etc. Everything in them is for comfort. They are always saying to the more difficult things, "Later on. Please wait. Give me time and I will attend to you." They procrastinate and, thereby, lose everything.

They have no sense of urgency for work. All they know is that it is urgent to

relax

be at ease

rest

chat

find pleasure.

These things may have some place in the life of a hard-working person, but they are a low priority. As for the lazy person, they are top priority.

Is this a description of you?

Unless you repent, you will be ruined permanently!

■

## **Laziness Manifested In Giving Excuses**

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The Bible says,

*“The sluggard says, ‘There is a lion in the road! There is a lion in the streets!’”  
(Proverbs 26:13).*

*“The sluggard says, ‘There is a lion outside! I shall be slain in the streets’”  
(Proverbs 22:13).*

The Enemy is a master at excuses. He causes people to do everything except look at their situation in the face. This was manifested from the garden of Eden where God originally put man. The woman excused herself and blamed her disobedience on the serpent. Adam, in his own turn, indirectly blamed God and directly blamed the woman.

It is second nature for lazy people to give excuses.

“There is a lion in the road,” is an excuse for not going where he should go,

when he should go. It is a way of saying, “I will go but not now!” Ultimately, they never go at all.

Laziness is rooted in very profound self-love. There is a sense in which hard work for the glory of God comes against this, but lazy people are unwilling, nay, most would rather die than work hard.

If they fail examinations, they have an excuse: “The teacher was unfair.”

If they oversleep, they blame the alarm clock.

If the food is late, they blame the crying baby.

If they are untidy, they blame the size of the house.

If they are dirty, they excuse themselves by saying that they were just about to go and change.

If they do not meditate, they blame it on some visitor who did not go away early to permit a quick going to bed.

If they sin, they blame someone else for tempting them.

If they do not pray, they excuse themselves by saying they had a wonderful time reading the Bible.

If they have no money because of indiscipline, they blame it on their sacrificial giving to the Lord and expenditure on unknown brethren.

If they carry out disloyal acts, they hide behind the excuse that they are loyal at heart but do not know what is happening.

If they hide their sin, they excuse themselves saying they were still looking for an opportune time to confess it.

Lazy people find it hard to say, “I am wrong. I am guilty. I am the one who is responsible for it all.”

LAZY PEOPLE WORK HARD, VERY HARD AND EXTREMELY HARD AT SELF-DEFENCE, GIVING EXCUSES AND PUSHING THE RESPONSIBILITY ON SOMEONE ELSE.

WHEN A LAZY PERSON STOPS GIVING EXCUSES, HIS LAZINESS IS ABOUT TO END. IN FACT, IT HAS ENDED.

## **Laziness Manifested In Much Sleep**

The Bible says,

*“Love not sleep, lest you come to poverty; open your eyes, and you will have plenty of bread” (Proverbs 20:13).*

*“How long will you lie there, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a vagabond, and want like an armed man” (Proverbs 6:9-11).*

*“I passed by the field of a sluggard, by the vineyard of a man without sense; and lo, it was overgrown with thorns; the ground was covered with nettles, and its stone wall was broken down. Then I saw and considered it; I looked and received instruction. A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man” (Proverbs 24:30-34).*



*“A son who gathers in summer is prudent, but a son who sleeps in the harvest brings shame” (Proverbs 10:5).*

*“Slothfulness casts into a deep sleep and an idle person will suffer hunger” (Proverbs 19:15).*

The Lord has given His children work to do for Him. He says, “Go and work for Me.” It is not possible to work and sleep at the same time. His children are to work and during sleep, rest from their labours. Those who obey the Lord make it their business to work. They sleep to rest from their work and in order to work the next day. Lazy people make sleep their goal.

You can easily deduce a man’s goal from how much time he gives to it. The Lord is so fair that He has given each one a twenty-four hour day. The leader of the one billion Chinese and a house-servant in a small town each have a twenty-four hour day.

The lazy person’s priority is sleep.

The hard-working person’s priority is God-given work.

How a person uses the twenty-four hours of the day will determine if he is

very lazy,

lazy,  
averagely hard-working,  
hard-working,  
very hard-working,  
extremely hard-working,  
a workaholic.

The person who has seen God's eternal purpose and the lateness of the hour will convert time that ought to be spent in sleep into time that is spent in work. Such a person may start by working hard and then progress to working very hard, and then move to working extremely hard and, finally, he is totally consumed by his God and working for Him. He is a workaholic, which means that he invests all his time into the pursuit of his God and the service of his God. He may spend

six hours in prayer,  
two hours in Bible reading,  
two hours in meditation,  
eight hours in Christian ministry,  
two hours for his family,  
three hours for sleep,  
one hour for eating, dressing, and so on.

He ensures that every minute counts. He has no time to waste. He gives himself only to the musts of life. He has no time for television. He has no time for gossip. He invests all into God.

Someone may say, “Will he not die from hard work?” No! He will not die. He will live longer. People who are walking in deep fellowship with God know a measure of release of spiritual and physical energy which carnal believers know nothing about. John Wesley worked extremely hard and lived to be eighty-eight. I know a man of God who is investing an average of 17-20 hours every day into God’s service, is still very strong at the age of 76, and he has been working that hard for years. He is not dead. He is very strong. Many lazy people born at the same time with him, who wanted to preserve their lives through much sleep, have since passed away, so that God may have fewer obstacles standing in His way through laziness.

I consider that the person who sleeps for an average of more than five hours in twenty-four hours is lazy. The saying goes thus, “The heights which great men reached and kept were not attained by sudden flight. It is while their companions slept that they kept toiling upwards into the sky.” Yes, while their companions slept, they toiled. They made the sky their limit and they went so far ahead of the others that they were out of their sight. What made the difference? It was how they used the time during which others were sleeping.

A hard-working person works during the day, redeeming every minute, and during the night he converts as much of the time as possible into working time. HE SLEEPS NOT TO ENJOY SLEEP, BUT IN ORDER TO REST HIS TIRED BODY AND PREPARE FOR MORE WORK. THROUGH STRAINED DISCIPLINE OVER A LONG PERIOD OF TIME, HE TEACHES THE BODY TO NEED LESS AND LESS SLEEP. BY ALTERNATING ACTIVITIES THAT NEED MUCH ENERGY WITH THOSE THAT NEED LESS ENERGY; BY ALTERNATING ACTIVITIES THAT NEED MUCH MENTAL EXERCISE WITH THOSE THAT NEED LESS, HE MAKES THE MOST OF EVERY MINUTE OF HIS LIFE. BY BEING FAITHFUL WITH TWENTY-FOUR

HOURS EVERY DAY, HE HAS PROVED FAITHFUL IN A LITTLE AND, THEREBY, QUALIFIES FOR RANK IN THE ETERNAL KINGDOM OF GOD AND THE LAMB.

The Bible commands,

“Love not sleep.”

The wise obey. The foolish disobey. They love sleep. They lie in bed.

The hour of waking up is not determined.

Even if it is determined, when the alarm clock rings to wake them from sleep, they put it off, pull the blanket around them and say to themselves:

“A little sleep, just a little.”

A little slumber, just a little;

only five more minutes,

fifteen more minutes,

thirty more minutes,

one more hour,

one more day of rest - sleep,

one more week of rest - sleep,  
etc,

and then all their time is gone!

■

## **Laziness Manifested In Doing The Work Of Others**

■

One characteristic of lazy people is that they always believe that they have not been fairly treated by

God,  
the believers,  
life,  
circumstances.

They are always comparing themselves with others. To them, the grass in the neighbour's field is always greener. This thinking, coupled with their indiscipline, causes them not to settle on their own jobs. They are always trying to do the job of others. They always invariably prefer the

circumstances,  
jobs,  
conditions,  
place,

and all else that has to do with the work of another. This preference is short-lived, for no sooner are they allowed to move there than they find problems there and begin to prefer the

place,

circumstances,

conditions

of the job of another.

In the body, if they are helpers, they will not like to own up. They could consider themselves apostles. Soon, and without planting any churches and ensuring that they are built up, they will establish themselves as prophets and then as

evangelists

pastors

teachers

miracle-workers, etc.

They would not pay the price of waiting before God to know from Him what their ministry is. They are “too wise” to listen to the other brethren. They are too

lazy to pray. They may bow their heads to pray, but all they will do will be

*“Lord, I bless You.*

*Lord, thank You for so, so, and so.*

*Lord, bless me.*

*Lord, change the heart of K.*

*Lord, show me how to spend the day.*

*Lord, what is my ministry?*

*Lord, thank You for a good night’s rest.*

*Lord, move in France, Africa and in my family.*

*Lord, cause Your Holy Spirit to be poured out on all flesh.*

*Amen.”*



This may last forty-five seconds, and he can no longer pray. He stops praying, begins to sing, then moves to something else, and then remembers that he did not ask God for protection and so throws the following words into the air:

*“God, protect me today.*

*Lord, give me the food I need.*

*Lord, bless the tracts ministry.*

*Lord, bless Sister N who is in labour.”*

The problem with people whose laziness is thus manifested is that they may think that they are led by the Spirit. When asked how they can be so unstable they may quote,

“The wind blows where it wills, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know whence it comes or whither it goes; so it is with every one who is born of the Spirit” (John 3:8).

They do not only commit the sin of laziness. They are so blinded and deceived by the Enemy that they consider the manifestations of their sin as evidence of

being led by the Holy Spirit. Being so deceived and, perhaps obsessed, how can they be delivered except through a special act of God?

O Lord, open their eyes to see!

■

## **Laziness Manifested In Ease Of Distraction**

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One obvious manifestation of laziness is ease of distraction. The lazy person does not concentrate. He is committed to nothing in particular and, consequently, nothing holds his interest for long. When given a piece of work to do, he will apply himself to it for a few minutes and then some new thought will come into his mind and, since he cannot control himself, or he lacks the will-power to put away the passing thought, he soon gives in to it and allows it to occupy him. He may soon become so excited with it that he immediately responds to it and moves away to put it into action.

The result of this is that the lazy person can be quite restless. He is constantly on the move, busy, but doing nothing. He is being moved by the one who described himself as,

*“going to and fro on the earth and from walking up and down on it” (Job 1:7).*

Lazy people, being so distracted, may also talk at random. They begin to speak on something, maybe narrating some story, and soon another thought comes into their minds and the first story is abandoned and the second one pursued for a few minutes and then a third, a fourth and a fifth in rapid succession. Since they have no goal, only wanting to talk in order to be seen, they do not ask themselves the serious question, “What am I communicating?”

It is this same spirit that causes them never to complete their projects. They may buy a plot and start to build, but they will not finish that house when they may decide to buy another plot and start to build another house. Before long, the two houses may be abandoned and they are taken up with a farming project which is pursued with apparent zeal for some time, but when difficulties arise, even the slightest difficulty, they move to another project entirely or come back to the first housing project.

They are often unable to build one relationship that lasts. Today, a friendship is being built with X. Tomorrow, another friendship is being built with Y, and on the third day Mr Laziness has forgotten X and Y and is preoccupied with Z.

Mr laziness can start sweeping the floor, leaves it to start cooking, which he does not complete before he has started washing clothes, which are not finished when he is “lost” in a conversation with a neighbour, and so forth.

He is lazy in his spirit and mind. His will has never been trained to say, “No.” It costs too much to say, “No.” He just moves with the current, and so it goes.

If Mr Laziness is a student, he may move from course to course, carrying out random sampling of courses and teachers and never staying in any place long enough to graduate. His problem is that he is unwilling to pay the price that is necessary to surmount the slightest difficulty.

Unless there is deep repentance, Mr Laziness - Mr Easily Distracted - will accomplish nothing with his life, regardless of how gifted he may be.

■

## **Laziness Manifested In Gluttony**

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Laziness and gluttony go hand-in-hand. There are a few gluttons who work hard and a few people who do not commit gluttony and yet are lazy. However, normally, gluttons are lazy people.

Lazy people have “self” as their god.

*Lazy people are committed to satisfying the god “self.” One of the ways through which this is done is through worshipping the belly. The Bible says, “For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things” (Philippians 3:18-19).*

The lazy are enemies of the cross.

The lazy have destruction for their end.

The lazy are gluttons.

The lazy have their bellies for their god.

If you are lazy, you are an enemy of the cross and your belly is your god!

A glutton will not rest until he has filled his stomach to the brim. When the

stomach is full, he wants rest. He wants sleep.

All gluttons worship the goddess sleep. It is a chain. First they worship food, and then they follow that with the worship of sleep. Is there any question why their productivity is low?

If you want to prove what I am saying, try to pray after a heavy meal or try to read the Word. You will find that you are sleepy. It is normal to sleep two to three hours during a long fast. With much discipline, the rest of the time can be used for:

prayer

reading the Word

ministry.

This illustrates the fact that God created us to function better on a small quantity of food. It is for that reason that gluttons will not inherit the Kingdom of God (Galatians 5:21).

Are you a glutton? If so, you are lazy. If you are a glutton and work hard, it is obvious that you could have worked harder if you were not gluttonous. You may indeed work harder than others, but you are still lazy, because you are functioning at a level below the ability that God has given you.

Think about it!

■

## **Laziness Manifested In Unwillingness To Take Counsel**

■

The Bible says,

*“The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who can answer discreetly” (Proverbs 26:16).*

*“Do you see a man who is wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him” (Proverbs 26:12).*

One strange thing that I have discovered is that most lazy people are stubborn. They insist on doing things

their own way

at their own time

at their own speed

at their convenience.

They make as if they were living in another world with their own timing and speed. They react as if they were being disturbed by people from another planet who do not seem to understand that the sluggard's way is the best.

The Bible says that they are wiser in their own eyes than many who are able to answer discreetly.

Sluggards tend to be very rebellious.

They would rather die than change, unless God moves mightily to open their eyes and thus save them from their madness.

Lord, O Lord, move in their favour. Lord, O Lord, move on their behalf.



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## LAZINESS: ITS DANGERS

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## **Laziness The Mother Of Other Sins**

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Laziness is a sin. The problem with it is that it is a sin that is difficult to commit and stop there. It is always committed with other sins that are a part of the packet.

David was idling at home instead of being at the battle front. In his idleness he committed the following sins:

Lust.

Adultery.

Deceit.

Lying.

Corruption.

Murder.

The proverb says, “Satan finds work for idle hands.” He really found work for David. He will find work for all lazy people. He will also find work for those hard-working people who take time off hard work to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of the sin of laziness for a moment.

Laziness also leads its captives to commit the sin of jealousy. Because the lazy person will end up having less and less spiritually and materially, because he is often trapped into the sin of comparison, he always ends up committing the sin of jealousy. He will look at the progress of the one who has worked hard and jealousy will well up in his heart, a jealousy that could eat him and others. Cain murdered Abel out of jealousy.

Laziness will also open the door for the sin of lying. A person who is lazy has to give one excuse after another in order to explain the fact that he has not done as well as he ought to have done. Most of these explanations are lies. So he ends up committing the deadly sin of lying, which the Bible says all who commit, will go to hell (Revelation 21:8).

Laziness may lead to theft. When the lazy person has failed to have what he needs, he may steal to have his needs met. He may steal in false declaration of taxes; in using the money given him for others or for the Lord's work, and so forth.

Laziness may lead to divorce. The Lord hates divorce, but many a marriage in which the man is lazy often ends up in divorce, because the husband is unable to meet the needs of his family.

Laziness often leads to drunkenness. The lazy person, while searching for something to occupy his time, often becomes a victim of alcohol and perhaps drugs; for he seeks solace in these, and each is forbidden by the Lord.

Laziness may lead to stubbornness. The lazy person is often plagued with an inferiority complex because of his needs and wants. Often, this inferiority is

manifested in him in the form of stubbornness. Even when he recognizes that he is wrong and should accept counsel, he will not have it for fear that he may be further despised. He, therefore, tries to prove tough. He tries to prove that he is in control and finally becomes the person of whom the Bible says,

*“The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who can answer discreetly” (Proverbs 26:16).*

Laziness may lead to the sin of anger. The children of lazy people often resemble their parents by becoming lazy. A lazy father often hates laziness in his children, but he forgets that their laziness is an extension of his own laziness.

Laziness may lead to the sin of pride. Often a lazy person covers his failure and purposelessness by becoming very haughty and proud. He may be nothing, but he is so taken up with conceit that he may become totally unapproachable. It is a matter of fact that the devil can get a man to boast about that for which he ought to be utterly ashamed. So, often, the lazy person is proud, filled with himself.

We could go on and on, but I believe we have made the point that laziness will lead to disaster. It is the mother of a multitude of sins.

It goes without question that anyone who does not want to commit this catalogue of sins will separate himself, at any cost, from laziness.

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## **Laziness And Salvation**

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My deep fear is that it is difficult for a man who is truly lazy and has always been that and continues in that way, to be saved. This is because, although the Lord Jesus has purchased the pardon for all lost men on the cross, only those who are prepared to actively co-operate with Him, do enter into an experience of that which He offers. The Bible says,

*“If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me” (Matthew 16: 24).*

There is need for active co-operation with God in the matter of salvation. The Lord Jesus said,

*“From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence (has been coming violently), and men of violence take it by force” (Matthew 11:12).*

*“The law and the prophets were until John; since then the good news of the kingdom of God is preached, and every one enters it violently” (Luke 16:16).*

*“Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way easy, that leads to destruction, and those who enter it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way hard, that leads to life, and those who find it are few” (Matthew 7:13-14).*

These verses demand that people co-operate actively with God in order to enter the Kingdom, and that they continue to co-operate actively with Him in order to stay there. There is the demand for the following, amongst other things:

Decision to follow the Lord.

Self-denial.

Taking up of the personal cross.

Following Christ.

Taking the Kingdom by violence.

Being a man of violence.

Entering the Kingdom violently.

Entering by the narrow gate.

Entering by the hard way.

These basic demands of the Christian Way make demands that may be beyond the one who has given himself over to laziness. He is too lazy to

decide to follow the Lord,  
take up his cross,  
follow Christ,  
deny himself,  
exert himself,  
become a man of violence,  
enter the Kingdom violently,  
enter by the narrow gate,  
enter and walk along the hard way.

Is it surprising then that the lazy never really get saved? Is it surprising that they start on the Christian Way and fall away because they are too indulgent to walk along the King's highway?

If you are lazy, have you ever faced up to the fact that you might never have actually received God's life because you have been unwilling to actively lay hold on the Saviour and continue to lay hold on Him?

Think about it!

Do something about it. Peter told the crowd on the day of Pentecost,



*“Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38).*

He told another crowd,

*“Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord” (Acts 3:19).*

Saul of Tarsus was told,

*“And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on his name” (Acts 22:16).*

It may be that you have always said,

*“I will repent,*

*I will turn to Him,*

*I will confess and forsake all my sin,*

*I will be baptized,”*

but it has always been something of the future. Know that you are lost and, unless you rise now, repent and receive God's salvation, it may be too late for you.

I once read a story by Michael Quoist some years ago. I do not remember in what book it was, but it was something like this:

*“A young boy in the Primary School heard the call to come to the Saviour. ‘Come now,’ said the Lord. He answered, ‘Not now. In the future please.’ The same call came to him in his last year in the Secondary School, ‘Come now to the Saviour.’ He answered, ‘Not yet. I am still trying to ensure that I get into the University. In the future please.’ The same call came to him during his last term at the University. It is the Saviour’s call. ‘Come now to the Saviour.’ He answered, ‘I have the final examinations before me. Then I have to settle in a job. Not yet. In the future please.’ He is now working and married. He has two children. The call of the Saviour came to him, ‘Come now to the Saviour.’ He answered, ‘I have to get to the top of my career. I have to work and get to the summit. Not now. Not yet. In the future please.’”*

Michael Quoist

Then he is dying. There is no more time.

Like all lazy people, he pushed the priority matter into the future and lost out completely.

Anyone who does not work extremely hard to establish and maintain a healthy, deep and permanent relationship with Jesus, who does not invest all that he is and all that he has into the Lord Jesus, is lazy, regardless of how much effort he may put into all else. Real hard work begins with right priorities, and Jesus is the Priority of priorities.

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## **Laziness And Spiritual Poverty**

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We have shown that lazy people may find it hard to receive salvation. However, if they are saved, they will find it hard to win a crown. They will not rise to God's best in this life, and they will not receive God's best rewards in the life to come.

The rewards that the Lord gives in this life:

spiritual leadership,

spiritual ministry,

spiritual encouragement,

spiritual fruitfulness,

spiritual rest,

etc,

are reserved for those who labour with Him, suffer with Him, co-operate with Him and give no opportunity to the devil. Lazy people have no part in this. They are unwilling to pay the price, such that, although they may be very gifted, they will come to naught.

Laziness rewards people in this life with

no leadership,

no ministry,

no encouragement,

no fruitfulness,

no rest,

etc.

Even if the lazy person has any of these, what he has falls short of what he could have had, had he been hard-working!

The dangers of laziness will even become more obvious at the judgment of the white throne or the Judgment Seat of Christ. The master said of the lazy servant who buried his one talent,

*“Cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth” (Matthew 25:30).*

The one talent may be likened to the potential for salvation which God gives to all people. Those who bury it are lost. Those who invest it by faith in the Lord Jesus are saved.

Saved but lazy people will not be rewarded. They will do cheap works that cost them nothing. They will produce works that are wood, hay, stubble and, when tested by fire, nothing will remain, and so they will be saved as through fire. The apostle Paul wrote,

*“According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and another man is building upon it. Let each man take care how he builds upon it. For no other foundation can any one lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any one builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw - each man’s work will become manifest; for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work which any man has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If any man’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire” (1 Corinthians 3:10-15).*

Have you thought about the fact that because of your laziness, you may be in heaven for the billions upon billions, trillions upon trillions of years of countless eternity with no crown to lay at the Saviour’s feet because you loved sleep, indulgence, food, etc? Have you thought about how you will feel then, having no city to rule for the Lord and with the Lord, because you refused to put yourself under discipline?

What will your

enjoyment,

ease,

pleasure,  
and all else,

serve on that day?

Have you thought about how fleeting time has been and time is?

Have you thought about the dimensions of eternity?

Will you not repent of your madness?

Will you not repent now?

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## **Laziness And Material Poverty**

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There are two types of people on the Planet Earth. There are those who are poor because they are lazy and there are those who are poor because of the gospel. Those who are poor because of the gospel are those who, at the call of the Lord, have forsaken well-paying positions in order to serve Him or who maintain well-paying jobs but invest all their income, except that which is barely necessary to keep them alive, into the work of the gospel. Those who are poor because of the Lord and the gospel will be rewarded, but those who are poor because of laziness are a problem to themselves and to others.

The Bible associates laziness with poverty and want. It says:

*Every one who is hasty comes only to want (Proverbs 21:5).*

*He who follows worthless pursuits will have plenty of poverty (Proverbs 28:19).*

*A slack hand causes poverty (Proverbs 10:4).*



*The sluggard does not plough in autumn; he will seek at harvest and have nothing (Proverbs 20:4).*

*The soul of the sluggard craves, and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied (Proverbs 13:4).*

*The desire of the sluggard kills him for his hands refuse to labour (Proverbs 21:25).*

*Love not sleep, lest you come to poverty (Proverbs 20:13).*

*A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a vagabond, and want like an armed man (Proverbs 6:10-11).*

*A son who sleeps in the harvest brings shame (Proverbs 10:5).*

*An idle person will suffer hunger (Proverbs 19:15).*

A lazy person will not work at his job with all his might. A lazy person will not adapt to circumstances. He will not adapt to a job that is less paying while waiting for a better opportunity. He will not use his hands while waiting for an office job. He will not humble himself. His pride and foolishness will not let him see that although it is better to cut grass than to live on others, he is doing the more degrading thing by living on others. I know many people who ought to be earning a living and supplying the needs of others, if they were just willing to forget their “self-conceived” importance and do practical work. The Lord Jesus spent more time as a village carpenter than as a preacher! He was the “Very God of Very God,” yet He did village carpentry from early childhood to the age of thirty. He was wise. He worked extremely hard as the carpenter and later on did the same as the gospel Herald.

O, that lazy believers would learn from Him!

For anyone to spiritualize his laziness is folly. It is not God’s will that you be poor. It is His will that you work with your hands and meet the needs of others. It is His will that you work with your hands and contribute to the conquest of the world for Christ. Do not blame

the devil

the nation

your circumstances

anyone else

for your poverty. A hard-working man will have his needs met, regardless of what the devil, his government, his circumstances, or anyone else does. THE ONLY FORCE THAT CAN ULTIMATELY CRIPPLE A MAN MATERIALLY IS HIMSELF. IT IS A FORCE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY ASSOCIATED WITH LAZINESS. WILL YOU NOT DELIVER YOURSELF TODAY?

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## **Laziness And Progeny**

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It is well-known that children resemble their parents physically. When this physical resemblance is not there, there is cause for worry. There is also resemblance in character and habits.

Children will grow to become what their parents are.

Lazy parents will produce lazy children.

A lazy father will produce lazy children.

A lazy mother will produce lazy children.

A hard-working father will produce hard-working children.

Let us illustrate from the Bible the fact of children doing what the parents did:

Abraham lied about his wife, saying that she was his sister (Genesis 12:11-16). His son Isaac committed the same sin (Genesis 26:6-11).

David committed adultery with Bathsheba. Amnon his son committed incest with his sister Tamar, and Absalom committed adultery with David's concubines.

David arranged for the death of Uriah. Absalom arranged for the death of Amnon.

David's one sin was women. His son Solomon's basic sin was women.

Eli's one problem was food (1 Samuel 2:29). He was overweight (heavy) (1 Samuel 4:18). And his sons' problem was food (1 Samuel 2:12-17).

If you are lazy,

your children will be lazy,

your grandchildren will be lazy,

your great grandchildren will be lazy and perhaps,

your great, great grandchildren will be lazy.

The Lord said that He visits

“the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation” (Exodus 34:7).

Is that the legacy you want to leave behind for your progeny?

Do you want a family line of people who will perish because they will follow in your steps:

be indulgent,

be indecisive,

postpone decision-making,

run away from the narrow way,

and perish eternally?

Will your children be proud and glad that you were their father?

Will your grandchildren be proud and glad that you were their grandfather?

Will your friends be glad of their association with you because of its impact on their welfare here and in the life to come?

Do you not then see the great evil of your sin, your crime of laziness?

Do you not see the necessity to be delivered from it at once?

Will you not act without delay, even if you are acting that way for the first time in your life?

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LAZINESS: DELIVERANCE FROM

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## **Deliverance From Laziness – 1: Coming To Yourself, Repentance And Forgiveness Received From God**

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The Bible says of the prodigal son, “But when he came to himself...” It is possible that you have been lazy all your life and have never seen the far-reaching consequence of your sin. It may be that you have never seen laziness as a sin of equal or more gravity than adultery, theft, idolatry, etc. It may be that this is the first time that the Holy Spirit has opened your eyes to see things as they are. If that is so, it is a good start.

We commend that you come to yourself.

Acknowledge before God that you have been and you are still lazy. You may want to pray as follows:

My Lord and my God,

I have been lazy.

I have been lazy in thinking.

I have been lazy in speaking.

I have been lazy in acting.

I have loved laziness.

I have loved ease.

I have loved pleasure.

I have been idle.

I have not worked hard.

I have not exerted myself.

I have not received the counsel given to me.

I have loved sleep.

I have loved food.

I have loved empty talk.

I have allowed many things to distract me.

I have majored in minors.

I have given excuses for my laziness.

I have, by my laziness,

opposed You,

frustrated Your purposes,

co-operated with Satan.

I have sought my own way.

I have eaten without working as hard as I should.

I have not given to the work of the gospel as I should have done, had I not been lazy.

I have not met the needs of others as I should have done, had I not been lazy.

I have buried my talents.

I have wasted Your time.

I have set a bad example for others.

I have sown an evil seed for generations to come.

I have disobeyed Your command to work hard.

I closed my eyes to

Your example of hard work,

Your Christ's example of hard work,

Your Spirit's example of hard work,

Your children's example of hard work.

Lord, I have sinned. I have sinned

against You.

against Your Church.

against Your creation.

Lord, there is nothing I can say or do to justify or palliate my sin. It is grievous and the eternal consequence of it looms before me now. How could I have been so blind?

Lord, all I can say is that I have sinned, sinned most grievously.

Lord, I have wasted

Your time that You gave me to use for You,

the opportunities that You set before me,

a good portion of my life.

Lord, I have sinned and justified my sin by my laziness.

Lord, I was blind, greatly blind.

Lord, I thought I was doing good to myself but, Lord, I realize it was folly, great folly.

Lord, my sin is so grievous that it is always before me.

Lord, I plead with You that You forgive and cleanse me from the sin of laziness and from the accompanying sins of pride, gluttony, grumbling, comparison, jealousy, hatred, lying, hypocrisy, that have been my companions as I have committed this dreadful sin of laziness.

Lord, forgive the mother sin and forgive the daughter sins, O Lord my God.

Lord, forgive me on the merits of Christ who died on the cross for a miserable sinner like me.

Lord, forgive and, in Your mercy, take away the consequences of my sin.

Lord, I ask all these things in the name of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

If you have sincerely confessed your sin of laziness and the other sins that came in because of it, then you should be sure that the Lord has forgiven you and cleansed you from your unrighteousness. The Bible says,

*“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us” ( I John 1:9-10).*

It is not possible for a lazy person to just start working hard. Even if he were to do that, he would remain out of fellowship with God. Laziness is a sin before God like lying, adultery, theft and the like, that, once committed, need to be repented of, confessed and forsaken in order that fellowship with God may be re-established.

Now that you have repented and are forgiven, thank the Lord for it and rejoice in the forgiveness that you have received.

When you repent, God does not only forgive you, He restores you into His heart and treats you as one who has never sinned. Feel free in His presence. Talk to Him. He is your Father. You are even now in His embrace. Rejoice and let a song of praise flow forth to Him.

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## **Deliverance From Laziness - 2: Restitution**

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When you committed or were committing the sin of laziness, you did not only sin against God. You sinned against man also. You should confess your sin to all against whom you sinned by being lazy. You may need to confess to

your wife or husband,

your children,

your neighbour,

your parents,

the people with whom you have lived,

your employer,

your employee,

your friend,

your friends,

your co-workers,

and every other person whom the Holy Spirit will show you to confess to. This

confession to others is evidence of the fact that you have clearly seen the fact that you sinned against God and against them. It is also evidence of the fact that you really want things to be different. Do not just confess the fact that you were lazy. Tell the person how the laziness was manifested.

Was it in receiving a salary for which you did not labour?

Was it in a lie that you told to cover up the laziness?

Was it in helping the person to commit the same sin with you?

Was it, as a father, in passing lazy “genes” to your children?

Let the Lord show things clearly from His stand-point and then you confess as He gives you light. As much as it is possible, carry out restitution. If you lied and obtained money from someone in order to support your laziness, go and give him the money if you have it. If not, go and own up to the fact that you owe him and then tell him when you will pay him back.

You may have to put in extra working hours at your place of work in order to retribute the time that you wasted in laziness. You may have to return the money you were paid for work that you did not do or you did poorly as a result of laziness. You might have pretended to be sick in order to keep away from work. That lie has to be confessed and the time restituted by your working after the official hours of work,

during public holidays,

during your leave time.

By all means carry out restitution. Remember that a thief does not go free the moment he pleads guilty in court. He goes back and pays for the things he stole. Only then is he free indeed.

As we said, laziness contributes to the building of the kingdom of Satan. That is what you did before - you built that kingdom. Restitution contributes most significantly in the pulling down of that kingdom. By carrying out restitution, you are attacking Satan's kingdom at a deep level. If your restitution is deep and thorough, you will cause the devil to lose by your restitution more than he gained by your sin of laziness. That is why it is absolutely necessary that it be deep and thorough.

It is advisable to carry out this restitution as soon as God opens your mind to see your sin. Do not postpone it; for by postponing it you are getting back into your old trap of sinning through procrastination. Do not just announce your sin to people. Kneel down before them and beg them with tears to forgive you. Do not stand up from your knees before them if after you have confessed, they keep quiet. Keep kneeling down and keep begging until you are forgiven and raised up from your knees. Do not only receive forgiveness from them. In cases where you are dealing with saints, beg them not only to forgive you but to restore you into their hearts and into their confidence. You need this also.



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## **Deliverance From Laziness – 3: Believe That You Will Remain Delivered**

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You might have struggled to be free before but fell back, and that causes you to wonder if it will not be the same thing this time. We want you to look to the Lord and not to the past. It is possible that you tried to throw away your laziness on your own in the past. You did not count on the Lord. You did not repent. You did not confess your sin of laziness to God. You did not carry out restitution. It was a partial activity and that is why God did not back it. But this time things are different. God has opened your eyes to see how enormous your sin was before Him. You have seen its tragic consequences and you truly do not want it. Things will be different this time. You have been prayed for, so that you may be totally delivered and come into the glorious liberty of the sons of God.

God created you with your eyes in the front, so that you may look forward to God's current and God's coming dealing with you and hope. He did not put your eyes at the back of your head so that you may concentrate on the past.

God does not carry out uncompleted tasks. He has set out to deliver you. You will remain delivered. You asked Him to forgive you and set you free. He cannot do anything less than what you asked Him to do, provided you asked with faith. He said and He says,

*“Have faith in God. Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken*

*up and cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours” (Mark 11:22-24).*

The Lord who has delivered you will ensure that you remain delivered. Why don’t you turn to Him now and pray to Him, saying,

*“Lord, You have delivered me from the sin of laziness out of Your love and not because of anything good in me. I pray that You keep me delivered. Lord, keep me delivered from laziness. Give me strength to co-operate with You and remain delivered.”*

As you have prayed, the Lord has heard you and it will be done for you according to your heart’s desire. In fact, it has been done for you even as you have desired and asked. Because the Lord has done it, you should confess that you have been delivered permanently. If someone asks that those who are lazy should put up their hands, you should certainly not put up your hand. You are not one of them. You have left that camp for ever. Glory be to the Lord! It does not depend on the way you feel. It depends on God who has shown mercy to you. The Bible says,

*“So it depends not upon man’s will or exertion, but upon God’s mercy” (Romans 9:16).*

Do not count on your power to keep you delivered. Count on His power. Do not look to your inability. Look to His ability. Rejoice with the apostle Paul who

said,

“I will all the more gladly boast of my weakness, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities; for when I am weak, then I am strong” (11 Corinthians 12:9-10).

YOU WILL REMAIN DELIVERED. THE LORD WILL PERFECT THAT WHICH CONCERNS YOU. GLORY BE TO HIM! HE IS THE AUTHOR AND HE IS THE FINISHER OF YOUR DELIVERANCE. Amen.

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## **Deliverance From Laziness - 4: Begin To Work Hard**

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In the past you gave yourself to laziness. You committed the sin of laziness deliberately. Now you should commit the righteousness of working hard. First of all, consecrate yourself to the Lord. Consecrate your

motives,

thoughts,

words,

actions

without reserve to Him.

Consecrate your

spirit,

soul,

body.

Consecrate your

will,

mind,

emotions.

Consecrate all your strength to the Lord, Consecrate all that you are and all that you have to Him. Consecrate them deeply and entirely and let it be settled that you will not move away from that consecrated position, come what may.

Because you have consecrated all that you are and all that you have to the Lord, you are to act in every situation as He would have acted in that situation. The Lord gave all of Himself to all He was involved in. He did nothing partially.

From your consecrated position, act like Him. Put all of yourself into everything that you do. Is there anyone to greet, put all of yourself into the handshake, greeting or embrace. Before, you held yourself back. Now, let go. Are there

plates to wash,

floors to clean,

a letter to write,

a confession to make,

a command to obey,  
some difficult work to do?

Do it at once. Do not wait. Put all of yourself into it and thank the Lord for the privilege of rendering service that way. You should ensure that you do it as if you were doing it unto the Lord; for that is what indeed it is. Begin to save time. Do not allow minutes to fly by uninvested into useful work. If there is nothing practical to do, withdraw and pray or read your Bible. Ask people around if they need help with some work, and if they say, "Yes," ask for it and do it for them with thanksgiving. Serve everyone. Serve in such a way that the Lord will be pleased with you.

Cut down your hours of sleep. Buy an alarm clock if need be. Maybe you slept for eight hours in the past. Cut it down to seven hours this month and convert that extra hour into doing what you consider is the most important work on earth. As your body stabilizes on seven hours of sleep, take one hour off again in the course of next month. Again invest that additional hour into your priority. Continue that way until you have brought down your sleeping hours to four or five and your prayer or study hours have grown in the proportion by which your sleeping hours have decreased. You may feel uncomfortable or sleep at the beginning, however, do not go back to the old habit. Run, exercise and pray, and soon your body will come to grips with the new sleeping time.

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## **Deliverance From Laziness - 5: Throw Away The Old Habits And Put On New Ones**

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Before deliverance the lazy person was bound by circumstances which ensured that he remained lazy. The following are some of the old habits that need to be thrown away:

Hesitation.

Procrastination.

Self-sparing.

Giving of excuses.

The fear of pain.

Running away from discipline.

Indecision.

Refusal of responsibility.

Slowness in

thinking

speaking

walking

doing any and everything.

Cowardice.

The capacity to yield readily to discouragement.

Disorder.

Indiscipline with

money

time

resources

everything.

It will not be easy to throw away the habits, but they must be thrown away. Unless the habits are thrown away the delivered person will be back in the trap. It will take real working hard to do it. The apostle Paul said,

*“Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Well, I do not run aimlessly, I do not box as one beating the air; but I pommel my body and subdue it, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified” (1 Corinthians 9:24-27).*

There are three things that you need to do. The first one is to wrestle in prayer, pleading with God that He should set you free from those old habits that were



associated with a life of laziness. The Lord will help you as you call and keep calling upon His name. The second thing is that you should command the Enemy to leave you. Speak a word of authority to the Satanic forces behind the habits. Say, "In the name of the Lord Jesus, I command the Satanic powers behind my habits of procrastination to depart and, in the name of the Lord Jesus, I release myself from this evil habit once and for all." Thirdly, with your will-power do the thing that is the exact opposite of the bad old habit. For example, as the Lord shows you things to do you should, instead of hesitating, move ahead and act; instead of procrastinating, do it now; instead of sparing yourself, involve yourself; instead of giving excuses, accept responsibility; instead of fearing pain, courageously accept pain and, instead of running away from discipline, you should impose discipline on yourself. As you act out the positive instead of yielding to the negative, the positive will replace the negative. Overcome evil with that which is good.

Do not give up if a bad habit lingers. I well remember the saying which was taught years ago, saying, "If at first you do not succeed, try, try and try again until you succeed." If you press on you will succeed. The Lord will enable you to press on until success is attained. May His holy name be praised!

The same thing goes for putting on new habits. They will not come on easily. You will have to labour. Remember the patience of the farmer. Do not give up at the first or second attempt. Say to yourself, "I will put on the new habits that are consistent with a life that works hard, regardless of how difficult the process may be and how long it may take." Work hard at it. Press on. Put everything into it. Practise daily. Pay the price.

Take, for example, the Lord may tell you to do something which you fear doing. Go ahead and do it, even though you may be trembling in the process. Someone said, "Do the thing you fear and then see the death of fear."

You may need someone to encourage you. Look for such a person. Select

someone who will stand by you, encouraging you, provoking you and helping you to press on to success.

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## **Deliverance From Laziness - 6: Break Up Old Relationships**

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Habits are associated with individuals. A lazy person has a lazy environment. A purposeless man associates with purposeless people. Drunkards go together. Normally, people look for the environment that is most suitable for them to become what they want to be. When you were lazy, you sought for the company of those who are lazy. You were at home with them and you enjoyed them. They made you feel at home. They encouraged you by their

thoughts,

words,

actions

to increasingly become lazy.

Now that you have repented of and forsaken the sin of laziness, you should separate yourself from the company of lazy people. You should actively run away from them. Bad company ruins good morals. Remember that you have recently been delivered from laziness. You are not yet strong enough to resist the

tricks,

temptations,

traps

of your old colleagues who want you back in their company. The sad thing is that lazy people are jealous and unhappy when one of their company is delivered. They seem to say, “Let us perish together. Why should we perish without him?”

You should be aware that their plans for you are not for your welfare but for your evil. How can they have plans for your welfare when they have none for their own welfare? How can they lead you into that in which they are bankrupt? Please keep away from them. Do not go near them. Do not listen to them. Do not discuss with them. Do not argue with them. Keep away. Keep clear. That is the best thing for you.

Someone may say that he wants to go and help them out of laziness. That is a good thought, but it often does not work. You are not strong enough to help them without becoming a victim. If you are burdened for them, and you ought to be, you should pray for them and encourage someone who has known deliverance from laziness for long or who has never had problems in that area of his life, to go and help them. In that way, by God’s grace, they will be helped and you will remain delivered. Praise the Lord!

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## **Deliverance From Laziness - 7: Establish New Relationships**

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You have been set free from laziness. You have broken away from your lazy companions, friends and associates. Should you then be a loner? Certainly not! There are reasons why you must not continue alone. The first one is that the Enemy will attack you if you are alone. He can defeat you as a loner more readily than he is able if you are two. There are moments of deep temptations to go back to an abandoned habit which is easier to resist in the company of another than when alone. The second reason is that the goal is not that you be delivered from laziness. Deliverance from laziness is a means to an end. The end is that you should work hard and, thereby, satisfy the heart of God.

In order that this might be readily accomplished, you need to make friends with a hard-working person or hard-working persons, so that you may learn from them how to work hard.

So build new relationships. Pray that the Lord should give you someone who will teach you how to work hard. Ask and ask and insist in prayer. He will do it.

You should also find out if you know some hard-working person to whom you can offer your services as his servant. At that point in your development, you will make it your goal to help him to succeed with the call of God on his life. As you help him to succeed, you will yourself be learning the secrets of success through hard work. This is not wasted labour; for the Lord does credit it to your

heavenly account. The Bible says,

*“Whatever your task, work heartily, as serving the Lord and not men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you are serving the Lord Christ” (Colossians 3:23-24).*

Thus you will be having double profit: learning for yourself and building credit in heaven. Is this not wonderful? I believe it is!

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## **Deliverance From Laziness - 8: Receive A Goal From God And Establish It**

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While you were committing the sin of laziness you either did not seek to know the specific call of God on your life because you were too lazy to seek it, or the Lord had shown you but you betrayed Him by indulging in the sin of laziness.

In case you have never received the call of God on your life, we want you to know the following:

When God created you from the very beginning, He created you with a special purpose in mind.

God had and God has something special for you to do for His glory and for His Body - the Church.

When God created you, He gave you some elements of personality that are uniquely yours and that no one else on earth has. You are a very unique individual. You are most special. There is no duplicate of you anywhere on earth. There has never been anyone just like you, and there never will be another you.

God meant that, in full co-operation with Him, you should develop those traits of personality, receive His Son Jesus and be saved; receive His Holy Spirit and be empowered; work hard and, thereby, develop into a most unique vessel (like no other) for His service.

God has this special service which no one else can perform as you.

It may be to be an apostle, a prophet, an evangelist, a pastor, a teacher, or it may be to manifest the gift of tongues, interpretation of tongues, a word of knowledge, a word of wisdom, discernment of spirits, faith, healings, miracles, prophecy, or it may be to manifest the motivational gift of prophecy, teaching, ruling (administration), helping, mercy, giving, exhortation.

It may be to conquer a planet, continent, nation, tribe, town, or some individuals for Him and for His dear Son.

It may be to help somebody He has chosen by: fasting, praying, giving, working, to ensure that he conquers the world, a continent, a nation, a tribe, or a city for the Lord and for His glory.

It may be to help by working in the kitchen, office, press, yard, etc.

The place of work and the type of work do not matter. All are important to God. The faithful servant working in the house of someone for the glory of God is just as important to the Lord as an apostle who plants churches and keeps watch over their spiritual progress.

Because God has something special for you, you will only satisfy the heart of God if you seek that thing or that place of service and pour yourself without reserve into it. It may be to be the prophet or it may be to hold the prophet's hand (by prayer) or to be the prophet's servant to give him food, water, etc. We again insist that the one who is the servant of another is no loser for it. The Lord said,

*“He who receives you receives me, and he who receives me receives him who sent me. He who receives a prophet because he is a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward, and he who receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. And whoever gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he shall not lose his reward” (Matthew 10:40-42).*



Because God has something special for you, you must find out exactly what He has for you, and when you have found it, you should give all of yourself to it and put into it all that you have.

You must find out what God created you for, and the first step to this is to surrender all your own plans for your personal importance. For example, you might have wanted to be an apostle, a prophet, an evangelist, etc, just because of the prestige of it, whereas God wants you to be a helper. If you become a self-created evangelist or prophet, regardless of how hard you work and regardless of what you accomplish, all that you shall receive from the Lord shall be stripes. You would have failed Him utterly. You would have abandoned what He created you for and set out to accomplish the desires of your own heart. There is no sin more horrible for a believer to commit! Do not commit it. Check the motives of your heart. Is there a desire to be important before man? Is there pride? If there is, you should repent or perish.

When you have surrendered all your desires, ambitions, plans, ask the Lord what Saul of Tarsus asked shortly after he was converted,

*“What shall I do, Lord?” (Acts 22:10).*

The Lord will show you what you must do.

After He has shown you what you are to do, make that your goal.

Receive from Him details about how you are to go about the task to which He has called you.

Commit yourself to that goal.

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## **Deliverance From Laziness - 9: Put All Of Yourself Into Accomplishing Your Goal**

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You have been set free from the sin of laziness.

You are free.

You have sought God.

You have received from God His call on your life.

You have set as your goal the accomplishing of that call.

Things are clear to you as to

what you must do,

how you must do it,

where you must do it,  
when you must do it,  
with whom you must do it,  
for whom you must do it,  
the resources that you need for doing it.

All is ready.

Now get started.

Put all that you are into it.

Do not look back.

Do not think about your weaknesses.

Do not think about your limitations.

Do not hold anything back

Put all of your strength into it.

Put all of your time into it.

Put all your thoughts into it.

Put all your will into it.

Put all your gifts into it.

Put all your life into it.

Put all of your money into it.

Move ahead!

Labour!

Press on!

Buffet your body!

Sacrifice sleep!

Sacrifice entertainment!

Sacrifice all!

Look to Jesus.

Look to the crown that He has reserved for you.

Look to the reward that He will give you on that day.

Look away from your limitations.

Look away from all else.

Look to Him.

Look to His call for you.

Look to the goal He has set before you.

Put the devil to nought

Frustrate all his plans for you by victorious praying.

Hide under the blood of Jesus.

Succeed to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

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## **Deliverance From Laziness - 10: Rise Above Your Handicaps**

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What of natural handicaps? Are they not enough to cause you to fail to achieve your God-given goal? Not at all. There are no handicaps that can cause you to fail. If you believe the Lord and put your all into His call for you, you will succeed. There have been

lame

blind

deaf

crippled

sick

people who have risen to great heights and accomplished great things for God. Only your refusal to believe the Lord and to put in your all can stand between your total success for the glory of God.

Read the following and see if you are more handicapped than the person in question.



*“When they are received aright the disciplines of life serve to reproduce in us the likeness of Christ. I saw this exhibited to a remarkable degree in the life of one of God’s choicest hidden saints. My visit to the home of Miss H.R. Higgen in Melbourne will not soon be forgotten.*

*She had neither arms nor legs, for these had been progressively amputated to arrest a bone disease. She named her cottage ‘Gladwish,’ and for forty-three years never left her room. When I entered, it was not to see a depressed invalid, but a radiant Christian. Instead of bemoaning the hardness of her lot, she gave herself to prayer and spiritual ministry.*

*To the end of the stump of one arm, a fountain pen was fastened, while on the other stump there was a rubber attachment. With these, she managed to manipulate a stand and letter rack by her bedside. When the calamity overtook her, instead of rebelling against God, she took it from Him as a discipline intended to accelerate the formation of Christ in her.*

*She mastered the difficult art of writing and developed an almost copper-plate style. Then began a correspondence that circled the globe. People from all over the world visited that little room, and no one left without being impressed by the triumph of Christ which she demonstrated.*

*Her helper showed me letters from people the world around whom she had led to Christ, either in that little room or through her correspondence. Literally hundreds were brought to Christ through her radiant testimony. The circumstances which might well have crushed and embittered her only served to sweeten and make her more like her Master.”*

*Copied from “This I remember” by J. Oswald Smith*

You, too, can accomplish your goal regardless of your handicaps. Praise the Lord! GO AHEAD AND SUCCEED IN SPITE OF YOUR HANDICAPS.

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## **Deliverance From Laziness - 11: In Case You Err**

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What if in the course of labouring to accomplish the call of God on your life you err or fail or slide back to a habit of laziness? Is that, therefore, the end? Is there any hope possible?

We say that there is plenty of hope.

All hard-working, goal-directed and goal-accomplishing people have made mistakes in their labours to accomplish their God-given goal. However, they did not make their failure the end. They learned from the failure, mustered courage and went on as if they had never failed, and succeeded!

When a person is walking to a certain destination but slides and falls, does he remain on the ground to cry? Does he give up the journey? No! He wipes away any dirt that he might have contacted, cleans himself and keeps moving towards his goal.

You, too, should do the same. If you err, keep pressing on. Praise the Lord!

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## **Deliverance From Laziness - 12: Working Together With God**

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As you go on fulfilling the call of God on your life, there will be times of loneliness.

There will be times when you will feel that no one understands, that you are misunderstood. The old thoughts may come and you are tempted to abandon everything and seek the company of idlers. Please do not yield to the temptation.

You are not alone. The Lord is with you. You may not see Him, but He is there with you. You may not feel Him, but He is there with you. Turn to Him and say,

*“Lord, You are here with me. I am not alone. You are my Companion. You are my Lord. You are my Leader. You are present. You are enough. I will not quit. I will press on. I will keep moving on. Victory is guaranteed because You are present and I am working together with You.*

*Thank You, Lord, that You have not left me alone.*

*Thank You that You will never leave me alone.*

*Thank You that You have delivered me.*

*Thank You for making me a success.*

*Glory be to Your holy name!”*

*Amen.*

■

## Thank You

■

## For Reading This Book

If you have any question and/or need help, do not hesitate to contact us through [ztfbooks@cmfionline.org](mailto:ztfbooks@cmfionline.org). If the book has blessed you, then we would also be grateful if you leave a positive review at your favorite retailer.

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Finally, we would like to recommend to you another book in this series The Art Of Working Hard:



Zacharias Tanee Fomum

# THE ART



OF  
WORKING  
HARD



*All the people who have made impact on history varied in many things, but they all had one thing in common - they worked hard. It is only true that “The heights by which great men reached and kept were not attained by sudden flight but while their companions slept, they kept toiling upwards into the sky.”*

*The Lord has given us work to do. He desires it accomplished. If we are to accomplish that work, we must put all that we are and all that we have into it. As far as this book is concerned, we must work with all our might. Only then can we satisfy His heart.*

*This book is written on working hard. We acknowledge that there are other important things in the whole matter of satisfying the heart of God. In this book, we have tried to concentrate on working hard. The other aspects of satisfying God’s heart have been covered or will be covered in our other books.*

*You can work hard and satisfy the heart of God.*

*You can work hard and win an eternal reward.*

*You can work hard in preparation for a high rank in the Kingdom of God.*

*You can work hard and improve your position on earth spiritually.*

*You can work hard and improve your situation on earth in all ways.*

*What you can do, you should do.*

*What you should do, you must do.*

*What you must do, you must do it with all your might.*

*What you must do with all your might, you should do at once.*

*The Lord God worked hard and works hard.*

*The Lord Jesus worked hard and works hard.*

*The Holy Spirit is working hard.*

*You go and do likewise.*

*We have written a companion volume to this book entitled, “Deliverance from the Sin of Laziness.” Those who are lazy should read that book first and be delivered from laziness, and then, as they become free, they should read this one and master the art of working hard.*

*We write the book, not from a position of people who have “arrived”, but as people who are at work, mastering and applying the principles that are written here.*

*If you have been blessed by this book and been enabled to make more progress in working hard, please let us know and may the Lord bless you abundantly.*

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## **Very Important!!!**

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If you have not yet received Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, I encourage you to receive Him. Here are some steps to help you,

**ADMIT that you are a sinner by nature and by practice and that on your own you are without hope. Tell God you have personally sinned against Him in your thoughts, words and deeds. Confess your sins to Him, one after another in a sincere prayer. Do not leave out any sins that you can remember. Truly turn from your sinful ways and abandon them. If you stole, steal no more. If you have been committing adultery or fornication, stop it. God will not forgive you if you have no desire to stop sinning in all areas of your life, but if you are sincere, He will give you the power to stop sinning.**

**BELIEVE that Jesus Christ, who is God's Son, is the only Way, the only Truth and the only Life. Jesus said,**

*"I am the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me"*  
(John 14:6).

The Bible says,

*“For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all” (1 Timothy 2:5-6).*

*“And there is salvation in no one else (apart from Jesus), for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).*

*But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God...” (John 1:12).*

BUT,

**CONSIDER the cost of following Him. Jesus said that all who follow Him must deny themselves, and this includes selfish financial, social and other interests. He also wants His followers to take up their crosses and follow Him. Are you prepared to abandon your own interests daily for those of Christ? Are you prepared to be led in a new direction by Him? Are you prepared to suffer for Him and die for Him if need be? Jesus will have nothing to do with half-hearted people. His demands are total. He will only receive and forgive those who are prepared to follow Him AT ANY COST. Think about it and count the cost. If you are prepared to follow Him, come what may, then there is something to do.**

**INVITE Jesus to come into your heart and life. He says,**

“Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door (to his heart and life), I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me ” (Revelation 3:20).

Why don't you pray a prayer like the following one or one of your own construction as the Holy Spirit leads?

*“Lord Jesus, I am a wretched, lost sinner who has sinned in thought, word and deed. Forgive all my sins and cleanse me. Receive me, Saviour and transform me into a child of God. Come into my heart now and give me eternal life right now. I will follow you at all costs, trusting the Holy Spirit to give me all the power I need.”*

When you pray this prayer sincerely, Jesus answers at once and justifies you before God and makes you His child.

***Please write to us ([ztfbooks@cmfionline.org](mailto:ztfbooks@cmfionline.org)) and I will pray for you and help you as you go on with Jesus Christ.***

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## **About the Author**

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Professor Zacharias Tanee Fomum was born in the flesh on 20th June 1945 and became born again on 13th June 1956. On 1st October 1966, He consecrated his life to the Lord Jesus and to His service, and was filled with the Holy Spirit on 24th October 1970. He was taken to be with the Lord on 14th March, 2009.

Pr Fomum was admitted to a first class in the Bachelor of Science degree, graduating as a prize winning student from Fourah Bay College in the University of Sierra Leone in October 1969. At the age of 28, he was awarded a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry by the University of Makerere, Kampala in Uganda. In October 2005, he was awarded a Doctor of Science (D.Sc) by the University of Durham, Great Britain. This higher doctorate was in recognition of his distinct contributions to scientific knowledge through research. As a Professor of Organic Chemistry in the University of Yaoundé 1, Cameroon, Professor Fomum supervised or co-supervised more than 100 Master's Degree and Doctoral Degree theses and co-authored over 160 scientific articles in leading international journals. He considered Jesus Christ the Lord of Science ("For by Him all things were created..." – Colossians 1:16), and scientific research an act of obedience to God's command to "subdue the earth" (Genesis 1:28). He therefore made the Lord Jesus the Director of his research laboratory while he took the place of deputy director, and attributed his outstanding success as a scientist to Jesus' revelational leadership.

In more than 40 years of Christian ministry, Pr Fomum travelled extensively, preaching the Gospel, planting churches and training spiritual leaders. He made more than:

700 missionary journeys within Cameroon, which ranged from one day to three weeks in duration.

500 missionary journeys to more than 70 different nations in all the six continents. These ranged from two days to six weeks in duration.



By the time of his going to be with the Lord in 2009, he had preached in over 1000 localities in Cameroon, sent over 200 national missionaries into many localities in Cameroon and planted over 1300 churches in the various administrative provinces of Cameroon. At his base in Yaoundé, he planted and built a mega-church with his co-workers which grew to a steady membership of about 12,000. Pr Fomum was the founding team-leader of Christian Missionary Fellowship International (CMFI); an evangelism, soul-winning, disciple making, Church-planting and missionary-sending movement with more than 200 international missionaries and thousands of churches in 65 nations spread across Africa, Europe, the Americas, Asia and Oceania. In the course of their ministry, Pr Fomum and his team witnessed more than 10,000 recorded healing miracles performed by God in answer to prayer in the name of Jesus Christ. These miracles include instant healings of headaches, cancers, HIV/AIDS, blindness, deafness, dumbness, paralysis, madness, and new teeth and organs received.

Pr Fomum read the entire Bible more than 60 times, read more than 1350 books on the Christian faith and authored over 150 books to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ. 5 million copies of these books are in circulation in 12 languages as well as 16 million gospel tracts in 17 languages.

Pr Fomum was a man who sought God. He spent between 15 minutes and six hours daily alone with God in what he called Daily Dynamic Encounters with God (DDEWG). During these DDEWG he read God's Word, meditated on it, listened to God's voice, heard God speak to him, recorded what God was saying to him and prayed it through. He thus had over 18,000 DDEWG. He also had over 60 periods of withdrawing to seek God alone for periods that ranged from 3 to 21 days (which he termed Retreats for Spiritual Progress). The time he spent seeking God slowly transformed him into a man who hungered, thirsted and panted after God. His unceasing heart cry was: "Oh, that I would have more of God!"

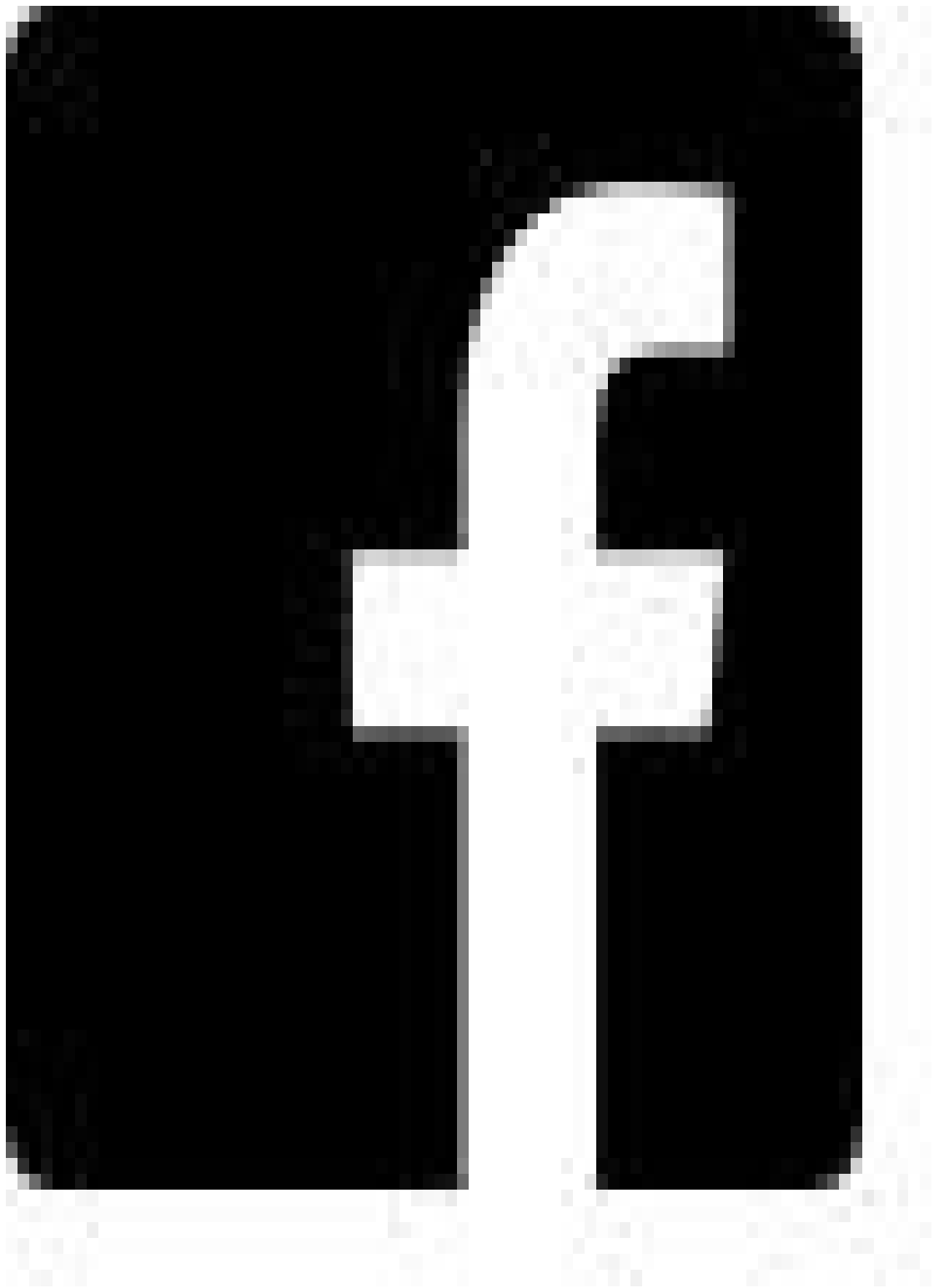
Pr Fomum was a man of prayer and a leading teacher on prayer in many churches and conferences around the world. He considered prayer to be the most important work that can be done for God and for man. He was a man of faith who believed that God answers prayer. He kept a record of his prayer requests and had over 50, 000 recorded answers to prayer in his prayer books. He carried out over 100 Prayer Walks of between five and forty-seven kilometres in towns and cities around the world. He and his team carried out over 57 Prayer Crusades (periods of forty days and nights during which at least eight hours are invested into prayer each day). They also carried out over 80 Prayer Sieges (times of near non-stop praying that ranges from 24 hours to 120 hours). He authored the Prayer Power Series, a 13-volume set of books on various aspects of prayer; Supplication, Fasting, Intercession and Spiritual Warfare. He started prayer chains, prayer rooms, prayer houses, national and continental prayer movements in Cameroon and other nations. He worked with leaders of local churches in India to disciple and train more than 2 million believers.

Pr Fomum also considered fasting as one of the weapons of Christian Spiritual Warfare. He carried out over 250 fasts ranging from three days to forty days, drinking only water or water supplemented with soluble vitamins. Called by the Lord to a distinct ministry of intercession, he pioneered fasting and prayer movements and led in battles against principalities and powers obstructing the progress of the Gospel and God's global purposes. He was enabled to carry out 3 supra – long fasts of between 52 and 70 days in his final years.

Pr Fomum chose a lifestyle of simplicity and “self- imposed poverty” in order to invest more funds into the critical work of evangelism, soul winning, church-planting and the building up of believers. Knowing the importance of money and its role in the battle to reach those without Christ with the glorious Gospel, he and his wife grew to investing 92.5% of their earned income from all sources (salaries, allowances, royalties and cash gifts) into the Gospel. They invested with the hope that, as they grew in the knowledge and the love of the Lord, and the perishing souls of people, they would one day invest 99% of their income into the Gospel.

He was married to Prisca Zei Fomum and they had seven children who are all involved in the work of the Gospel, some serving as missionaries. Prisca is a national and international minister, specializing in the winning and discipling of children to Jesus Christ. She also communicates and imparts the vision of ministry to children with a view to raising and building up ministers to them.

The Professor owed all that he was and all that God had done through him, to the unmerited favour and blessing of God and to his worldwide army of friends and co-workers. He considered himself nothing without them and the blessing of God; and would have amounted to nothing but for them. All praise and glory to Jesus Christ!









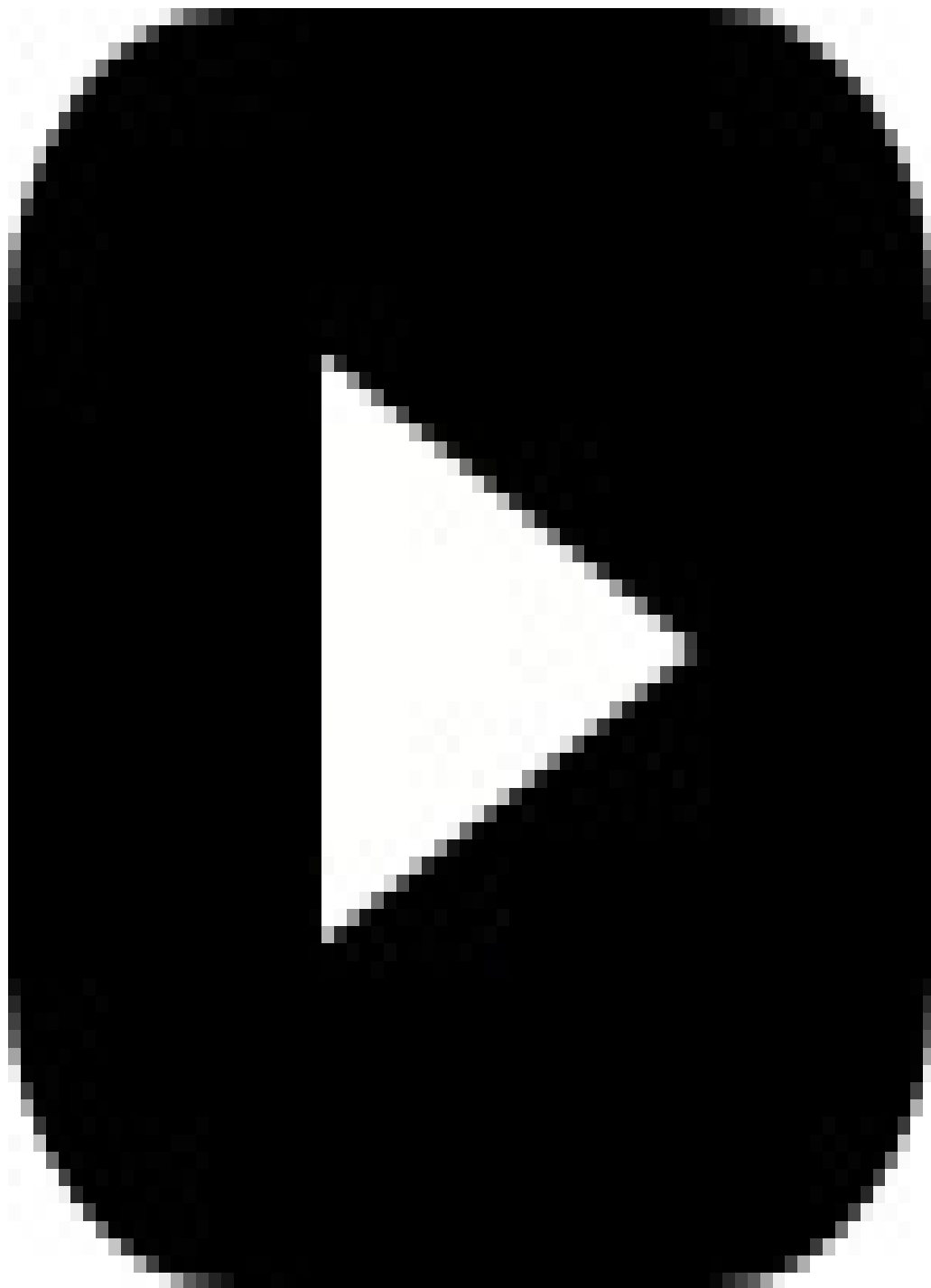












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