



Developing An Overcomer's Will

The Choice To Be Diligent Proverbs 6:6

A. Be A Man Who Is A Doer Of The Word!

In extraordinary times God looks for extraordinary men. These Men do not need great intellect, talent, or resources. They simply need to be obedient channels through whom God can show himself strong. For most men, the enemy of obedience is not willful rebellion but crippling slothfulness. It is crippling because its subtle characteristics are usually not recognized. A slothful man hears God's word and walks away. He does not seek the Lord with his whole heart, or diligently examine his life, or consistently submit his soul to the ministry of the word or earnestly share the truth with others. Instead, he forgets "what manner of man he was", thus becoming self-deceived. (James 1:22-24) *Elijah is a good example of this kind of man (James 5:17-18)

B. Seven symptoms of a slothful man:

1. He does not believe that he is slothful. (Proverbs 26:16)
2. He makes little soft choices in life. (Proverbs 6:10-11, 20:4)
3. He does not value the importance of time or seasons. (Proverbs 12:24)
4. He will not finish tasks. (Proverbs 12:27; 24:30-31; Ecc. 10:18)
5. He lives in a world of wishful thinking. (Proverbs 21:25-26; 26:14)
6. He brings painful damage to his employers. (Proverbs 10:26)
7. He hides behind self-induced fears. (Proverbs 22:13)

C. How does slothfulness develop?

*Proverbs 15:19 - slothfulness is a snare of thorns

*Proverbs 21:25-26 - he is spoiled and left unchallenged, he begins to manipulate people and facts to get what he wants. He finds the easy way out in every situation in life. He wants the job that pays the maximum wages for the minimum effort. He willingly submits to "get rich quick" schemes and justifies them with excuses of brainpower. Prov. 28:22



D. How do we conquer slothfulness?

1. Allow yourself hunger - Gen. 3:19; II Thess. 3:10
2. Learn about diligence - Prov. 6:6 (initiative, self-direction, respect for seasons, ability to finish jobs, foresight and planning.)
3. Learn the discipline of rising early. Hebrew word "diligently means to be up early at a task". Prov. 6:9
4. Learn to respect time. Life is a race against time. We will only win the race if we realize the following:
 - *Time is limited.
 - *Death is certain.
 - *The second coming is even more certain.
 - *The maximum number of productive years is established by God.
Psalm 90:10
 - *Days must be counted. Psalm 90:12
 - *Time is given for god's work, not for wasting it on our pleasure.
John 9:4
 - *Time is unrecoverable.

The bottom line is "IN CHRIST"! John 15:1-8 "apart from him we can do nothing."