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HALF-HEARTEDLY

God doesn't want people to obey Him **half-heartedly**. Instead He commands everyone to obey Him with all their heart and soul.

- **Deuteronomy 26:16:** "This day the LORD thy God hath commanded thee to do these statutes and judgments: thou shalt therefore keep and do them with all thine heart, and with all thy soul."

Whatever we do in this life, we must do it heartily. We must not do it **half-heartedly**.

- **Colossians 3:23:** "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;"

IDLE, IDLENESS

Pharaoh claimed that the Israelites wanted to sacrifice to God because they were **idle**. (However, he was telling a deliberate lie. The truth was he hated both God and the people of God.)

- **Exodus 5:8:** "And the tale of the bricks, which they did make heretofore, ye shall lay upon them; ye shall not diminish ought thereof: for they be idle; therefore they cry, saying, Let us go and sacrifice to our God."
- **Exodus 5:17:** "But he said, Ye are idle, ye are idle: therefore ye say, Let us go and do sacrifice to the LORD."

Wives must not be **idle**. Instead they must continually work for the good of their household.

- **Proverbs 31:27:** "She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness."

It's bad for people to be **idle**.

- **Ecclesiastes 10:18:** "By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through."

The people of Sodom were **idle**, and that led them into sin.

- **Ezekiel 16:49:** "Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy."

In the day of judgment God will hold people accountable for every **idle** word that they say.

- **Matthew 12:36:** "But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment."

In the parable of the laborers, the householder saw people standing **idle** in the marketplace in the third, sixth, and ninth hour of the day. (This would have been around 9 AM, noon, and 3 PM.)

- **Matthew 20:3-5:** "And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, And said unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way. Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise."

In the parable of the laborers, the householder found workers standing **idle** in the marketplace in the eleventh hour of the day. (This would have been around 5 PM).

- **Matthew 20:6:** "And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle?"

The disciples of Jesus believed that the claims He had been resurrected were an **idle** tale. (They were wrong.)

- **Luke 24:6, 11:** "He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, ... And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not."

We need to be working. We're not called to stand **idle** and do nothing.

- **2 Corinthians 6:1:** "We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain."

If people are **idle** in the church and are causing problems then the solution is for them to go get a job. The church shouldn't feed people who are able to work but are unwilling to do so.

- **2 Thessalonians 3:10-12:** "For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread."

It's wrong for women to be **idle** and go around causing problems for other people. Instead they should be diligently working (just like everyone else).

- **1 Timothy 5:11, 13:** "But the younger widows refuse: for when they have begun to wax wanton against Christ, they will marry; ... And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not."

The saints won't be idle during the eternal state (which takes place after the final day of judgment). Instead we'll be serving

God.

- **Revelation 22:3:** "And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:"

INACTION

Although Paul didn't condemn the Philippian church for not meeting his needs, he did tell them that their inaction almost got Epaphroditus killed.

- **Philippians 2:25,27,30:** "Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants. ... For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. ... Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me."

INERT

Without someone to use them, a staff or an axe or a rod are just **inert** pieces of wood.

- **Isaiah 10:15:** "Shall the axe boast itself against him that heweth therewith? or shall the saw magnify itself against him that shaketh it? as if the rod should shake itself against them that lift it up, or as if the staff should lift up itself, as if it were no wood."

LAZINESS, LAZY, SLOTHFUL, SLOTHFULNESS, SLUGGARD, SLUGGARDS

Rebekah wasn't **lazy**. Not only did she give water to all the camels of Abraham's servant, but she did so quickly.

- **Genesis 24:19-20:** "And when she had done giving him drink, she said, I will draw water for thy camels also, until they have done drinking. And she hastened, and emptied her pitcher into the trough, and ran again unto the well to draw water, and drew for all his camels."

The people who gathered with Rachel at the well were unwilling to roll the stone away to water their sheep. (Since there were multiple people at the well, and since Jacob was able to move the stone all by himself, it seems they were just **lazy**.)

- **Genesis 29:7-8, 10:** "And he said, Lo, it is yet high day, neither is it time that the cattle should be gathered together: water ye the sheep, and go and feed them. And they said, We cannot, until all the flocks be gathered together, and till they roll the stone from the well's mouth; then we water the sheep. ... And it came to pass, when Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, that Jacob went near, and rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother."

The five spies from the tribe of Dan told the tribe to not be **lazy**,

but to go and possess the land.

- **Judges 18:2, 9:** "And the children of Dan sent of their family five men from their coasts, men of valour, from Zorah, and from Eshtaol, to spy out the land, and to search it; and they said unto them, Go, search the land: who when they came to mount Ephraim, to the house of Micah, they lodged there. ... And they said, Arise, that we may go up against them: for we have seen the land, and, behold, it is very good: and are ye still? be not slothful to go, and to enter to possess the land."

It's bad to be a **sluggard**.

- **Proverbs 6:6:** "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:"

A **sluggard** is someone who only works if there's a ruler over him who forces him to work.

- **Proverbs 6:6-8:** "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest."

Those who sleep an excessive amount are **sluggards**.

- **Proverbs 6:9:** "How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?"

God doesn't command us to provide food and money to people who are able to work but are too **lazy** to do so. Instead He commands people to work so that they don't become poor.

- **Proverbs 6:10-11:** "Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man."

Those who are **lazy** will become poor.

- **Proverbs 10:4:** "He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich."

Laziness brings shame.

- **Proverbs 10:5:** "He that gathereth in summer is a wise son: but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame."

It's terrible to be **lazy**.

- **Proverbs 10:26:** "As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to them that send him."

Those who are **lazy** cause problems to the people they're supposed to be serving.

- **Proverbs 10:26:** "As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to them that send him."

Having a **lazy** servant is compared to getting smoke in your eyes, or exposing your teeth to vinegar. (It's irritating, painful, and makes life difficult.)

- **Proverbs 10:26:** "As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to them that send him."

Those who are **lazy** risk being put under forced labor.

- **Proverbs 12:24:** "The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute."

There are some who are too **lazy** even to cook their food so they can have something to eat.

- **Proverbs 12:27:** "The slothful man roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man is precious."

One of the characteristics of **lazy** people is that they treat their possessions carelessly.

- **Proverbs 12:27:** "The slothful man roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man is precious."

Even though the soul of **lazy** people desires many things, they will have nothing (except poverty).

- **Proverbs 13:4:** "The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat."

The path of those who are **slothful** is compared to a hedge of thorns. (In other words, being lazy makes life harder, not easier.)

- **Proverbs 15:19:** "The way of the slothful man is as an hedge of thorns: but the way of the righteous is made plain."

Those who are **lazy** are like those who are wasteful.

- **Proverbs 18:9:** "He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster."

Those who are **lazy** will suffer hunger (because laziness leads to poverty).

- **Proverbs 19:15:** "Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger."

Laziness puts people to sleep (which is bad, since that leads to poverty).

- **Proverbs 19:15:** "Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger."

Lazy people have the ability to feed themselves, but are unwilling to do so.

- **Proverbs 19:24:** "A slothful man hideth his hand in his bosom, and will not so much as bring it to his mouth again."

Those who are too **lazy** to work will become poor.

- **Proverbs 20:4:** "The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing."

People who are **lazy** are unwilling to work in anything less than ideal conditions.

- **Proverbs 20:4:** "The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing."

Laziness leads to death.

- **Proverbs 21:25:** "The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to labour."

Lazy people come up with ridiculous excuses to explain why they can't be expected to do any work.

- **Proverbs 22:13:** "The slothful man saith, There is a lion without, I shall be slain in the streets."
- **Proverbs 26:13:** "The slothful man saith, There is a lion in the way; a lion is in the streets."

Lazy people allow their property to fall into ruin.

- **Proverbs 24:30-31:** "I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down."

It's wise to look at the terrible things that happen to **lazy** people and learn from their bad example.

- **Proverbs 24:32-34:** "Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction. Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man."

Solomon compared a **slothful** person turning on his bed to a door turning on its hinges. The lazy person turns over and remains in bed, doing nothing.

- **Proverbs 26:14:** "As the door turneth upon his hinges, so doth the slothful upon his bed."

Lazy people find it grievous to do even tiny amounts of work.

- **Proverbs 26:15:** "The slothful hideth his hand in his bosom; it grieveth him to bring it again to his mouth."

A **lazy** person can't be persuaded with logic and reason. He won't listen.

- **Proverbs 26:16:** "The sluggard is wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason."

A building that's falling apart is a sign of **laziness**. Someone isn't taking care of it.

- **Ecclesiastes 10:18:** "By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through."

In the parable of the talents, the lord said that the servant who was only given one talent was **slothful**.

- **Matthew 25:24,26:** " Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: ... His lord

answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:"

In the parable of the talents, the **slothful** servant who did nothing lost the property that his lord entrusted to him. His talent was taken from him and given to someone else.

- **Matthew 25:28:** "Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents."

In the parable of the talents there were only two possible outcomes. The good servants who faithfully worked for their master were blessed with greater responsibilities when he returned. However, the **slothful** servant who refused to serve him was cast into a place of torment, and what little he had was taken from him and given to someone else.

- **Matthew 25:30:** "And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

We must not be **lazy**.

- **Romans 12:11:** "Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;"

Paul didn't believe that since he was saved he could live however he wanted. He refused to use his salvation as an excuse to be **lazy**.

- **Philippians 3:12-14:** " Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may

apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

God requires people to pursue excellence in their jobs, instead of being **lazy**.

- **Titus 2:9-10**: "Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again; Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things."

Since we have an inheritance coming to us from God, we must not be **slothful**.

- **Hebrews 6:11-12**: " And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises."

PASSIVE, PASSIVELY

When Samson was thirsty after his great victory, he could have asked God to provide him with water. Instead he asked God if he was going to die (which is a very **passive** aggressive way to handle the situation.)

- **Judges 15:16, 18:** " And Samson said, With the jawbone of an ass, heaps upon heaps, with the jaw of an ass have I slain a thousand men. ... And he was sore athirst, and called on the LORD, and said, Thou hast given this great deliverance into the hand of thy servant: and now shall I die for thirst, and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised?"

It's good for a woman to ask her lover to kiss her (instead of **passively** doing nothing).

- **Song of Solomon 1:2:** "Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth: for thy love is better than wine."

It's good for a wife to go to her husband to see if he wants her, instead of being **passive** and waiting for him to go to her.

- **Song of Solomon 6:11:** "I went down into the garden of nuts to see the fruits of the valley, and to see whether the vine flourished and the pomegranates budded."

The Christian life isn't about being **passive** and waiting for things to happen. Instead God commands us to be active. Jesus tells us to ask Him for things, seek things, and to knock on doors to see if they'll open.

- **Matthew 7:7:** "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye

shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:"

In the early church everyone participated in the service. The congregation didn't sit around **passively** while the pastor did all the talking.

- **1 Corinthians 14:26:** "How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying."

The life of a Christian involves actively pursuing virtues: righteousness, faith, charity, and peace. It's active, not **passive**, and involves diligence and work.

- **2 Timothy 2:22:** "Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

SLACK, SLACKED, SLACKNESS

The Shunammite woman told her servant to not **slack** off his riding (the donkey) for her, unless she told him to. (She was trying to get to Elisha because her son had died.)

- **2 Kings 4:24:** "Then she saddled an ass, and said to her servant, Drive, and go forward; slack not thy riding for me, except I bid thee."

There are no moments in the Christian life when we can **slack** off and pursue something other than the high calling that God has given us.

- **Philippians 3:14-16:** " I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing."

God requires people to pursue excellence in their jobs, and not **slack** off or be lazy.

- **Titus 2:9:** "Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again;"