



The path of least resistance

Are you spiritually dull? Are you slothful?

Sloths are tropical, slow moving mammals that live in the trees in the jungles of Central and South America. They use their long claws to hang onto branches while they feast on the leaves that other animals can't reach. Unfortunately for the sloth, their long claws — 3 to 4 inches (8 to 10 centimeters) — make walking on the ground difficult, so they spend most of their time secluded in the tall trees they call home.

Sloths spend most of their lives hanging upside-down from tree branches; they eat, sleep, mate, and give birth upside-down in the trees. They hold onto tree branches with strong, curved claws that are on each of their four feet. They eat, sleep, mate, and give birth upside-down in the trees.

Conditioning

The sloth has become conditioned to a generational inactive lifestyle. It has carved out a remarkably ingenious (creative) mode of life in the treetops, but one that imposes certain constraints on its speed and energy level so they become idle and lethargic by habit. A sloth would barely prevail in a race with a snail.

Are you spiritually out of condition?

Heb. 12:12 Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down and the feeble knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that which is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed. Run the race that has been set before you.

Run the Race! Be Committed!

Acts 20:24 However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me; the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.

Jeremiah 12:5 If you have raced with men on foot and they have worn you out, how can you compete with horses. If you stumble in safe country, how will you manage in the thickets by Jordan?

The need for self-discipline, perseverance and conditioning

I Cor. 9:24 Do you know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.

Do you tend to hide or blend in?

Some sloths have colonies of green algae encrusting their fur, both adding to the camouflage effect and providing some nutrients to the sloths, who lick the algae, and blend in with the environment.

Are you hiding your gifts? What are you hiding from?

Pr. 24:30-34 I went by the field of the lazy man, And by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding; And there it was, all overgrown with thorns; Its surface was covered with nettles; Its stone wall was broken down. When I saw it, I considered it well; I looked on it and received instruction: A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to rest; So shall your (spiritual) poverty come like a prowler.

Workers are needed for the harvest of souls!

The Workers Are Few

Mt. 9:35-38 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

We need to minister salvation and healing to as many souls as possible by spreading the Good News and preparing the saints for the work of ministry to usher in the glory of God as He pours out His Spirit and revival in the church.

Blow The Trumpet and Sound an Alarm

Joel 2:28-32. Blow the trumpet in Zion and sound an alarm in My Holy Mountain.

Joel prophesied the inauguration of the age of the church; a time when all people everywhere can call on the name of the Lord, be saved from their sins, and become *participants* in the kingdom of God through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit; as the church *fully* becomes the Body of Christ throughout the world. The redemptive purposes of God are extended and made available through *every Spirit filled believer*. We each have a purpose to *fulfill* in the body of Christ. Every born again believer is collectively "The Church" and needs to do whatever God has purposed and gifted us to do. Sometimes in our old nature we are programmed to do little or nothing at all.

Satan wants to deceive us to believe we aren't good enough, smart enough, or any other number of creative cants and wonts.

Prov. 6:10-11 How long will you lie there, you sluggard? (someone who avoids the task at hand) When will you get up from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest and (spiritual poverty) will come on you like a thief and scarcity like an armed man.

God is pouring out His Spirit on all people!

AVAIL YOURSELF TO THE BLESSINGS OF GOD

Isaiah 44:3 For I will pour water on the thirsty land. And streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants.

Ezekiel 29:39 I will no longer hide my face from them, for I will pour out my Spirit on all the people of Israel, declares the Sovereign Lord. As believers we are *included* in the covenant of Jerusalem.

Joel 2:28-29 (The Day of the Lord) “And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour my Spirit in those days.

We are receiving the outpouring of God’s Spirit and revival in the church. Be a part of God’s blessing, impartation and glory.

Be Encouraged! Be Stirred Up!

Prov. 24:27 Prepare your work outside and make it ready for yourself in the field; afterwards, then build your house. Give God your all and He will give you all things.

In Haggai the people were more concerned about building their own houses and failed to work on the house of God, until a new and fresh awakening of revival came.

Haggai 1:14 So the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of the *whole* remnant of the people. They came and began to work on the house of the LORD Almighty, their God.

Stirred ‘ur (oor) To arouse, awaken, stir up, excite, raise up, arouse to action, to open one’s eyes.

This word occurs 75 times in the OT. It is used of an eagle stirring up it’s nest (Deut. 32:11) and of a musical instrument being awakened or warmed up for playing (Ps.108:2). In (Isa. 54:4), the Lord “awakens” his ear to hear God’s message. (Isa. 51:9) speaks of the arm of the Lord being awakened or roused to action. God wakes up the spirit of Zerubbabel, exciting him to repair the temple of God.

Let’s Wake Up and Get Excited!

Remember, slothfulness is a condition that leads to an empty and inactive lifestyle.

Don’t let go of the commands of God and hold on to human traditions or the past.

Traditions

Past or current inherited, established, customary patterns of thought, action, or behavior (as a religious practice or a social custom). Don’t live in the past.

Isa. 43: 19-21 See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen, the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.

The Day of the Lord

INSTRUCTIONS

The Final Harvest

1 Thess. 5:1-11 Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

1 Thess. 5:12-15 Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.

1 Thess. 5:16-23 Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not treat prophecies with contempt but test them all; hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil. May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify (consecrate and bless) you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

Leviticus 26:4 Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. Leviticus 26:4

THE RAIN OF REVIVAL IS UPON US!

Zechariah 10:1 Ask ye of the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain; so the LORD shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field.

Revival