

# SUCCESS OR SLUGGARD?

## World's Greatest Wisdom, Part 9

Pastor Ken Ritz \* August 5, 2018 \* New Life Vineyard Church

*The sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied. Proverbs 13:4 NIV*

*Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds; for riches do not endure forever, and a crown is not secure for all generations. Proverbs 27:23-24*

*I went past the field of a sluggard, past the vineyard of someone who has no sense; thorns had come up everywhere, the ground was covered with weeds, and the stone wall was in ruins. I applied my heart to what I observed and learned a lesson from what I saw. A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest - and poverty will come on you like a thief and scarcity like an armed man. Proverbs 24:30-34*

**The primary difference between the sluggard and the success is: \_\_\_\_\_**

*Lazy hands make for poverty, but diligent hands bring wealth. Proverbs 10:4*

*Diligent hands will rule, but laziness ends in forced labor. Proverbs 12:24*

*A sluggard's appetite is never filled, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied. Proverbs 13:4*

*How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest — and poverty will come on you like a thief and scarcity like an armed man. Proverbs 6:9-11*

*The sluggard says, "There's a lion in the road, a fierce lion roaming the streets!"*

*As a door turns on its hinges, so a sluggard turns on his bed.*

*A sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven people who answer discreetly. Proverbs 26:13,14,16*

*Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest. Proverbs 6:6-8*

## Two Lessons From the Ant

1. The ant does not require \_\_\_\_\_
2. The ant understands “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

### My Declaration

I will live the rest of my life serving God's purposes with God's people on God's planet for God's glory. I will use my life to celebrate his presence, cultivate his character, participate in his family, demonstrate his love, and communicate his Word. Since my past has been forgiven, and I have a purpose for living and a home awaiting in heaven, I refuse to waste any more time or energy on shallow living, petty thinking, trivial talking, thoughtless doing, useless regretting, hurtful resenting, or faithless worrying. Instead I will magnify God, grow to maturity, serve in ministry, and fulfill my mission in the membership of his family. Because this life is preparation for the next, I will value worship over wealth, "we" over "me," character over comfort, service over status, and people over possessions, position, and pleasures. I know what matters most and I'll give it all I've got. I'll do the best I can with what I have for Jesus Christ today. I won't be captivated by culture, manipulated by critics, motivated by praise, frustrated by problems, debilitated by temptation, or intimidated by the devil. I'll keep running my race with my eyes on the goal, not the sidelines or those running by me. When times get tough and I get tired, I won't back up, back off, back down, back out, or backslide. I'll just keep moving forward by God's grace. I'm Spirit-led, purpose-driven, and mission-focused, so I cannot be bought, I will not be compromised, and I shall not quit until I finish the race. I'm a trophy of God's amazing grace so I will be gracious to everyone, grateful for every day, and generous with everything that God entrusts to me. To my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I say: However, whenever, wherever, and whatever you ask me to do, my answer in advance is yes! Wherever you lead and whatever the cost, I'm ready. Anytime. Anywhere. Any way. Whatever it takes Lord; whatever it takes! I want to be used by you in such a way that on that final day I'll hear you say, "Well done, thou good and faithful one. Come on in, and let the eternal party begin!"