

**SPIRITUAL POVERTY, THE FRUIT OF A LAZY SOUL****27/9/09**

*The following proverbs and N/T counterparts reveal a positive, life saving guide to the value of walking in the spirit. Eternal life is a dedicated journey, not a one off event. Spiritual poverty is the fruit of spiritual laziness.*

**Paul amplifies the great need to remain focused and committed to the Lord... a faithful labourer.**

**2TIM 2:4** No man that warreth **entangleth himself with the affairs of this life**; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. *God has filled us with the spirit... there is a job to do. Ongoing spiritual commitment and exercise is vital, if we choose to continue on in the footsteps of Christ... our true duty.*

**Spiritual poverty has its own cycle just like those who succeed, also have their own spiritual cycles.**

**PRO 6:6-11** 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. How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? *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. *Laziness is a killer.*

**ROM 12:2** And be not **conformed to this world**: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. *Positive actions bring spiritual gain.*

**Spiritual poverty results from lack of planning.**

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

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

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

**LUK 12:37** Blessed *are* those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall **find watching**: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.

**Spiritual poverty is built upon endless excuses.**

**PRO 22:13** The slothful *man* saith, *There is* a lion without, I shall be slain in the streets.

**PRO 15:19** The way of the slothful *man is* as an hedge of thorns: but the way of the righteous *is* made plain. **LUK 9:57** And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain *man* said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. *We all start our salvation with the same willing excitement, but things change.*

**58** And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air *have* nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay *his* head. *Jesus makes it clear that his lifestyle had far different priorities... he didn't even have a home and didn't intend to allow natural worldly needs to dominate his life.*

**59** And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father (*excuse*).

**60** Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and **preach the kingdom of God** (*priority*).

**61** And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house (*excuse*).

**62** And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and **looking back**, is fit for the kingdom of God (*priority*).

**Spiritual poverty places unfair demands upon the righteous.**

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

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

**26** He coveteth greedily all the day long: but the righteous giveth and spareth not.

**LUK 6:35** But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and *to* the evil.

**Spiritual poverty destroys souls through personal neglect.**

**PRO 24:30** I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding;

**31** And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, *and* nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down. *This proverb depicts the spiritual life of someone who doesn't truly love the Lord.*

**32** Then I saw, *and* considered *it* well: I looked upon *it*, *and* received instruction. *This is how it happened.*

**33** *Yet* a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:

**34** So shall thy poverty come *as* one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man.

**2PET 2:20** For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. *It would be hard to imagine just how bad God's judgment will be for those who fail.*

**21** For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known *it*, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. *Let's be motivated to keep serving Jesus Christ.*

**The way of wisdom and spiritual prosperity.**

**PHI 3:17** Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.