

## **Whatever the hand finds to do, do it with all thy might.**

God wants us to work hard. This is not just “on the job” or paid work. This applies to work around the house, our relationships, our volunteer work, or our prayer and Bible time. The following are some verses that deal with hard work.

**2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.**

Bible study is work. God wants us to understand our covenant so that we can teach others. This is not just for preachers or teachers but for everyone. I am not going to spend time talking about the importance of the Bible because I covered that in *The Word Works*. This word “study” means like we normally use the word. The word below has a different meaning.

**1 Thessalonians 4:11 And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;**

**12 That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.**

This word study means to labor, strive, or study. The root words mean to be friendly or honor and prize.

**Ecclesiastes 9:10 Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.**

This is what every employer is looking for, someone who will do what it takes to help the company without being told. This verse says that if we see something that needs to be done, we do it with all our might.

My son was working at a grocery store and came home complaining about having to get rid of a dirty diaper he discovered in the parking lot. To make it worse, it had been run over. I asked him if his boss made him clean it up and he said “No”, but he had found it and he thought he should throw it away. I was very pleased, to say the least, and told him so. Another time I was driving my daughter to work at another grocery store and saw a cart a long way from the store. I used this to show her what employers want in an employee. I let her out at the cart to take it back to the store “before” she punched in.

Life is a balance. We don’t make work a god or become obsessed with making money. Work is one way God gets us money to give. So we balance our lives with occupation, family duties, Bible study, prayer, ministry/church and leisure. If we use love and leadership of the Holy Spirit as our guide we will spend the correct amount of time and energy on each area.

**Psalm 39:6 Surely every man walketh in a vain shew: surely they are disquieted in vain: he heapeth up riches, and knoweth not who shall gather them.**

As I was looking in my Thompson Chain Reference Bible this verse was under the heading of Business Life with the title *A Restless Life*. I read Psalm 39. In a short life a person can make a lot of noise, accumulate a lot of “things” then die and someone else gets them. What we do that is not directed by Holy Spirit or love-led is of no value. Chapter 20 in Ecclesiastes the writer, probably Solomon, is saying hard work is pointless. Solomon had God’s wisdom and he saw the need for the new birth but couldn’t figure out how to get there.

**Ecclesiastes 2:20 Therefore I went about to cause my heart to despair of all the labour which I took under the sun.**

**Ecclesiastes 5:12 The sleep of a labouring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much: but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep.**

When we have done all we can do there is peace. Money does not help us sleep or be at peace. Most people with a lot of money worry about keeping it.

**Luke 12:16 And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:**

**17 And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?**

**18 And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.**

**19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.**

**20 But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?**

If we work hard and follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit, we will balance our holding and giving. But, we must never count on our money, or our ability to make money, as the source of our security.

People leave money to charities and the Church when they die. At one time the Church owned vast amounts of land because people would give the land to the Church when they died instead of giving it to their families. They did this to try to placate a mean God and try to earn salvation. Giving when we die does not do us any good; it is giving while we are still on earth that is good.

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

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

Hard work and diligence in business affairs gives a person money, peace and contentment.

**Proverbs 22:29 Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean (insignificant) men.**

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

**7 Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler,**

**8 Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.**

God is saying to do things the way an ant does them and you will be wise. An ant never stops working; he is always working and never standing around talking at the coffee machine. The ant does not need anyone to tell him what to do; he is always doing what he should be doing. The ant plans ahead and is ready in good times and lean times.

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

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

This has to do with not doing a good job. Do a bad job and you become poor; take care of business and you will be rich. He that does what needs to be done is wise; a person who does not do the work he should be doing causes shame to his parents.

**Proverbs 12:11 He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with bread: but he that followeth vain persons is void of understanding.**

Hard work, in the long run, is always rewarded. We should not concern ourselves with what others are doing; we just work hard and mind our own business. We don't chase after fantasies. God wants to promote us, but it is in His time. God will see that we get what is due us.

**Proverbs 13:11 Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase.**

NIV has "gathers little by little" instead of "by labour". Doing what the Bible says to do will slowly increase wealth. Seek the kingdom and "all these things" will be added to you. If we do what the Bible says God will take care of the money.

**Proverbs 20:13 Love not sleep, lest thou come to poverty; open thine eyes, and thou shalt be satisfied with bread.**

God will get involved with us in our work. If we work hard, God will make sure we have plenty of food. Again this is about diligence and a good work routine and work ethic. If we work better with more sleep, we should go to bed earlier.

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

Waste can also mean destroy, corrupt, ruin, rot, decay. Laziness is a waste, as is excessive TV watching or other entertainment. Ouch, God's getting personal!

**Proverbs 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.**

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

**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.**

God wants us to work hard so that we have more to give to those in need. In the physical realm, laziness with no understanding leads to poverty. Let's look at the spiritual realm.

*Verse 30.* God wants us to meditate on the Word and not to let it depart from our mouths. He wants us to pray without ceasing. Laziness in these areas is caused by and leads to being void of understanding. It is a cycle. At some point we have to break the cycle and just do what God is telling us to do.

*Verse 31.* This calls to mind - **Mark 4: 18 And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, 19 And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.** Again we see it is part of the cycle. Thorns choke the Word and it becomes unfruitful. Being lazy allows Satan to put things in

our mind that shouldn't be there. With our wall broken down, anyone can come in and do whatever damage they want.

*Verse 32.* The people who will receive instruction can learn by considering what they see.

*Verse 33.* We all need balance in our lives. Work, leisure, sleep, etc. must all be in their proper place. A person who sits around not doing anything can get sleepy due to inactivity.

*Verse 34.* Poverty will come as suddenly, without warning, as a robber, and scarcity like an armed man. A robber comes in when we don't see him and an armed man overpowers us. We cannot stop either one.

**2 Timothy 2:20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.**

**21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.**

The rest of Chapter 2 tells us what to purge. It is our decision as to what type of vessel we will be gold or clay.

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

God wants us to maintain the things He gives us.

**Hebrews 6:12 That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.**

This has to do with working hard to build the kingdom. We are to look at the people who went before us.

**Proverbs 17:2. A wise servant shall have rule over a son that causeth shame, and shall have part of the inheritance among the brethren.**

**Proverbs 25:13. As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to them that send him: for he refresheth the soul of his masters.**

After a hot Texas summer, I went to Wisconsin for a couple of days and the cool weather was refreshing. We should try to bless our employer and also pray for the company we work for. God may have given us that job just to get us into a position to be a blessing to those around us.

**Proverbs 27:18. Whoso keepeth the fig tree shall eat the fruit thereof: so he that waiteth on his master shall be honoured.**

If we want figs (or Fig Newtons) and honor, we need to take care of our fig trees and our masters. We can trust God to give us figs (and other food) and divine favor with our employer. We're promised we shall be, not might be, "**honored**".

It is always good to hear of a person who "rose from the ranks" of a business by hard work, diligence, and divine favor with his or her superiors.

The following is about authority and how it fits in the workplace. This large section may be the most important thing in this series.

**Ephesians 6:5 Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ;**

**6 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;**

**7 With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:**

**8 Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.**

Jesus is our employer, our ultimate boss and Lord, and the One who really gives us money. We work for Him. God is always watching us when we are at work even if the boss isn't.

**Colossians 3:22 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God;**

**23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;**

**24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.**

**1 Peter 2:18 Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the forward (harsh or twisted).**

It does not matter who your boss is, just work hard. Every action at work needs to be for the betterment of our company and the people over us. Never speak words of disloyalty or rebellion.

**Proverbs 12:1. Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge**

**But he who hates correction is stupid. NKJV**

**1 Samuel 15:23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry...**

God views rebellion and stubbornness as serious stuff.

**Matthew 8:5 And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, 6 And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. 7 And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him. 8 The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. 9 For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. 10 When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.**

I know I have said this before, but we need to hear things over and over to build our faith. Just when you think you understand something God shows you a lot of stuff you didn't know. The Bible is a living book. If we take the shortest verse - "Jesus wept", we could spend the next year going over all that verse has for us and still only scratch the surface. Let's look at authority and submission. Jesus knew lots of folks- Mom, Dad, Peter, John the Baptist etc. He says this centurion had more faith than all of them. The centurion was under submission and had people under him. He knew where he fit in and understood God was involved. He also understood the authority of Jesus' words.

The best thing to do is to start with the attitude that people in authority are speaking for God and then judge what they say. This can be boss, pastor, parent or friend (that you know has God's wisdom). We are to submit to one another also. Our pastor sent a letter asking people to raise their giving because of some extra expenses due to the opening of a new building. We started with the attitude that it was God's will for us to give more. We asked God what and how much extra to give, if anything, but we started with the attitude of giving more.

Authority is limited to the situation. A boss does not control where I go to church just as a pastor does not tell me where I can work. A policeman can tell me where to drive my car but he cannot tell me who to marry. Rebellion against traffic laws is still rebellion against authority.

**Romans 13: 1 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. 4 For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. 5 Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. 6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. 7 Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor. NKJV**

What about the Revolutionary War and the Texas War of Independence? I am not 100% sure but I would say those wars were not justifiable in light of these verses. The leaders of both wars were in rebellion and the rest of the people involved just went along: but we are not getting into a history lesson. The civil rights movement was done to enforce the U.S. Constitution and could not be construed as rebellion, which brings us to the issue of whether God can or will bless a situation that is found to be in conflict with the Bible, even sin. From what I see, God can.

It seems to me that the writers of the U.S. Constitution were directed by the Holy Spirit. Also, I know of two ministers that have heavily anointed ministries and were divorced before they started. This does not negate these verses. We do not always operate in God's best. God does not throw us out just because we sin; but we could have done better and saved ourselves a lot of unhappiness.

All authority is established by God. If you cheat on your taxes you are in rebellion or you are stealing. One song says, "Do you have to look away when you pass by the diner where the squad car stops for coffee?" Verse 5 mentions conscience; we should be free from fear and not be afraid of the police or the IRS.

There is great peace in being in right relationship and accepting the criticism and discipline of people, especially people in authority, without letting pride get in the way.

In closing let's look at a couple of verses.

**Proverbs 14:23. In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to poverty.**

Work hard, and God will make our work fruitful; just sitting around talking leads to poverty. There are some people who "talk a good game" as if they're know everything and the best at what they do, but when it comes time to work, they vanish.

**Ephesians 4:28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.**

We work to make money to give to others, and to buy stuff for ourselves like food and clothing or to pay the bills. God wants us to work hard and do the best job we can. We do this because that is what God wants us to do. One way God gets us money is through our work. God, not our employer, is our source of income.

God wants us to work hard, be smart, and make a lot of money so that we have a lot to give.

View your job as a way to get seed to sow into the gospel or into other peoples' lives. If you have trouble giving read *Money* from my website. [hgspublishing.com](http://hgspublishing.com)

Hard work and giving equals wealth.