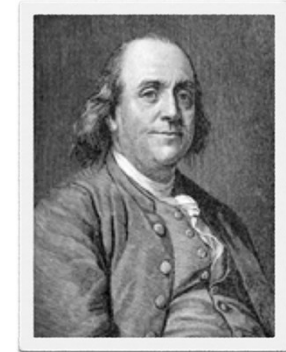




Ben Franklin said:

“Don’t put off until tomorrow what you can do today.”

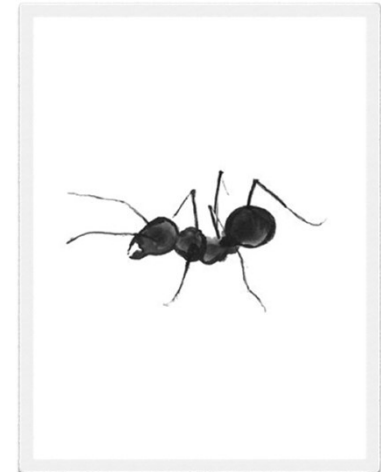


“Whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.”

James 14:7

“Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways and be wise. Without having any chief, officer or ruler, she prepares her bread in summer, and gathers her food in harvest.”

Proverbs 6:6-8



“The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied.” Proverbs 13:4

“The sluggard craves the fruit of diligence without the diligence that gains it.” Charles Bridges

SELF-DISCIPLINE: is to control the desire to do what we want to do, instead of what we should do. It is the ability to keep oneself under control. The word indicates self-mastery over ones inner desires, thoughts, actions, and words.

“Who ever has no rule over his own spirit, is like a city broken down, without walls.” Proverbs 25:28

## The Un-disciplined

- Cain—Cain’s lack of self-discipline resulted in the murder of his brother Abel. Gen.4:8
- Samson—Samson’s lack of self-discipline resulted in his capture by the Philistines. Judges 16-18
- David—David’s lack of self discipline resulted in adultery and murder. 2 Samuel 11-12

- \* “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared before hand, that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:10
- \* Without self-discipline we can squander our gifts and talents and waste opportunities to do the good that God intended for us to do.
- \* Without self-discipline the very work we were created for is forfeited.

“Procrastination is the kidnapper of souls and the recruiting officer of Hell.”

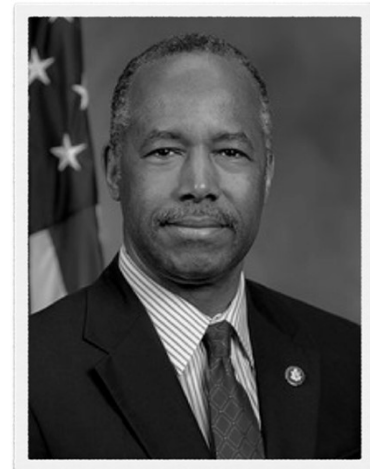
—Edward Irving

## Self-Disciplined Bible Heroes

- Joseph the son of Jacob refused the advances of Potiphar’s wife. Gen. 39:7-12
- The Apostle Paul disciplined his body so he wouldn’t be disqualified. 1 Cor. 9:27
- Daniel refused to eat the King’s food. Dan. 1:8
- Esther fasted for her people when Haman plotted to annihilate the Jews. Esther 4:16

- \* DILIGENCE: (Strong’s) Prompt, earnest, eager, perfect or persistence. It’s steady perseverance in ones effort.
- \* “The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty.” Prov. 21:5
- \* “To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they shall have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away.” Matt. 25: 29

“Do you see a man skillful in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men.”  
Proverbs 22:29





“He also who is slack in his work is brother to him who destroys”  
Proverbs 18:9

\* “I passed by the field of a sluggard, the vineyard of a man lacking sense, and behold, it was all overgrown with thorns; the ground was covered with nettles, and its stone wall was broken down. Then I saw and reflected upon it; I looked and received instruction. ‘A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest,’ then your poverty will come as a robber, and your want as an armed man.”  
Prov. 24:30-34

- “Like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to those who send him.”  
Prov. 10:26



**The Day Dreamer**  
Thinking about her job? Nah!

\* “A lazy man does not roast his prey, but the precious possession of a man is diligence.” Proverbs 12:27



**The Notorious Garage!**  
NO—This is NOT my garage!!

• “The way of the slothful man is as a hedge of thorns, but the path of the upright is a highway.” Prov. 15:19

- “Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring.” Prov. 27:1
- “You do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. For you are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.” James 4:14
- “...behold now is the favorable time; behold now is the day of salvation.” 2 Cor. 6:2

## Overcoming Procrastination

1. Admit that procrastination is a habit that needs correcting. *"The craving of a sluggard will be the death of him, because his hands refuse to work." Prov. 21:25*
2. Ask God to help you use your time wisely. *"There is a proper time and procedure for every matter..." Eccl. 8:6*
3. Keep a priority list—allow sufficient time for all. *"...there will be a time for every activity, a time to judge every deed." Eccl. 3:17*
4. Remember it's not what you'd like to do, but what needs to get done. *"He who allows empty pursuits will have poverty in plenty." Prov. 28:19*

5. "Plan your work and work your plan." And pace yourself. *"Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you." Luke 14:28-29*

6. You may not complete all your tasks in one day. "NO PROBLEM!" Commit to persevere the following day *"Do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised." Heb. 10:35-36*

7. Don't be discouraged. Ask the Lord Jesus for help. *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Phil. 4:13*

8. Seek advice from a wise friend. *"The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice." Prov. 12:15*

9. Be diligent and self-disciplined. *"But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control..." Gal. 5:22-23*

10. Don't rush to get through your tasks. Enjoy the "good works" God designed specifically for you. *"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Eph. 2:10*

11. Pray, Pray, Pray! *"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. Phil. 4:6*

*"May these words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer." Psalm 19:14*