

Motivated by Life in the Son

Introduction: Discussion with a friend who said his son was lazy; discussion with an inmate who said he is lazy. Neither is actually lazy, just unmotivated.

I. The Apathetic Sluggard – Wisdom from the Proverbs

A. Amazing Lack of Motivation

- The sluggard buries his hand in the dish, and will not even bring it back to his mouth. (19:24)
- As the door turns on its hinges, so does the sluggard on his bed. (26:14)
- How long will you lie down, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest. (6:9-10)

B. Consequences – A Miserable Life

- So shall your poverty come on you like a prowler, and your need like an armed man. (6:11)
- The way of the sluggard is as a hedge of thorns, but the path of the upright is a highway. (15:19)
- Laziness casts into a deep sleep, and an idle man will suffer hunger. (19:15)
- The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the soul of the diligent is made fat. (13:4)
- The desire of the sluggard puts him to death, for his hands refuse to work; all day long he is craving, while the righteous gives and does not hold back. (21:25-26)
- He also who is slack in his work is brother to him who destroys. (18:9)
- The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who can give a discreet answer. (26:16)

II. Life Without Spiritual Diligence

Romans 12:10-13 (NKJV) ¹⁰Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; ¹¹not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; ¹²rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; ¹³distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

A. Stagnant

2 Peter 1:8-10 (ESV) ⁸For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. ¹⁰Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.

1 Peter 2:2-3 (NASB) ²like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, ³if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

B. Unprotected

Ephesians 6:13 (NKJV) ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

C. Impure

2 Peter 3:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;

D. Prideful

Revelation 3:15-17 (NKJV) ¹⁵“I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. ¹⁶So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. ¹⁷Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—

E. Self-Deceived

James 1:22-27 (NKJV) ²²But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. ²⁵But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. ²⁶If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one’s religion *is* useless. ²⁷Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, *and* to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

F. Unbelieving

Hebrews 3:18-19 (NKJV) ¹⁸And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? ¹⁹So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.
Hebrews 4:11 (NKJV) ¹¹Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.

**So why am I sometimes slack in my service to the Lord and to His people?
What motivates me? What drives me?**

III. Motivated By LIFE IN THE SON

A. In Him Was Life

John 1:1-4 (ESV) ¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴**In him was life, and the life was the light of men.**

B. He is the author of LIFE.

John 1:3 (ESV) ³**All things were made through him**, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

C. He is the Word of LIFE.

1 John 1:1 (ESV) ¹That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, **concerning the word of life—**

D. He is the bread of LIFE.

John 6:35 (ESV) ³⁵Jesus said to them, **“I am the bread of life;** whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

E. He is the giver of eternal LIFE.

1 John 5:11 (ESV) ¹¹And this is the testimony, that **God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.**

F. He is the resurrection and the LIFE.

John 11:25-26 (ESV) ²⁵Jesus said to her, **“I am the resurrection and the life.”** ²⁶Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

G. He is the way, the truth and the LIFE.

John 14:5-6 (ESV) ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, **“I am the way, and the truth, and the life.** No one comes to the Father except through me.

H. We have LIFE in His name.

John 20:31 (ESV) ³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing **you may have life in his name.**

I. Don't refuse LIFE!

John 5:39-40 (ESV) ³⁹You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, ⁴⁰**yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.**

J. He gives the ABUNDANT LIFE.

John 10:10 (ESV) ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. **I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.**

IV. The Abundant Life

Mark 10:29-30 (ESV) ²⁹Jesus said, “Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, ³⁰who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life.

Luke 6:38 (ESV) ³⁸Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

Psalms 16:8-11 (ESV) ⁸I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. ⁹Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. ¹⁰For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. ¹¹YOU MAKE KNOWN TO ME THE PATH OF LIFE; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Conclusion:

Instead of connecting to the Source of LIFE ...

Instead of hungering for the Bread of LIFE ...

Instead of trusting in the Word of LIFE ...

Instead of taking hold of LIFE INDEED...

We are motivated by our hunger for more of what the world offers – money, possessions, achievement, popularity, fame, recreation, pleasure, fun and excitement.

It's a difficult, meaningless, unsatisfying life.