

Overcoming Spiritual Laziness

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Philippians 3:12-14

1. Spiritual laziness is a lack of passion.

Revelation 3:15-16

"I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth."

Psalm 127:2

"In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat— for he grants sleep to those he loves."

2. Christian growth takes effort.

Matthew 7:13-14

"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."

3. Security found in God's love defeats laziness.

Philippians 3:12

"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me."

2 Thessalonians 3:5-6

"May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters, to keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive and does not live according to the teaching you received from us."

4. Seized by God's purpose defeats laziness.

Philippians 3:10

"I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death."

Steps to Dismantle Spiritual Laziness

1. Concentrate on "One Thing".

Philippians 3:13

"Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do..."

2 Timothy 3:10

"You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance..."

2. Exert Yourself.

Philippians 3:12

"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but ***I press on*** to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me."

Philippians 3:13

"...straining toward what is ahead."

3. Forget the Past.

Philippians 3:13

“Forgetting what is behind...”

Matthew 6:3

“But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing.”

4. Aim at the “High Call”.

Philippians 3:14

“I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”

Matthew 5:46-48

“If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”