

DILIGENCE: HARD WORK

CHARACTER



Work hard and become a leader; be lazy and never succeed.

Today work is almost a bad word, we want to have everything handed to us. Being a hard worker is one of the finest qualities we will find in a person. It is what brings success to our lives, our communities and our nation. Good, hard workers are always concerned about the quantity and quality of their work. They become valuable to any organization or company, because they are productive and finish what they begin.

The mind of a hard worker concentrates on the goal; they look for ways to get it done better and faster. This will lead to promotions, and before long, they will be in leadership. Hard workers have a good attitude while they work, and they are proud of their achievements.

Hard workers see their job as an opportunity to learn more and increase their abilities. They work not just for a salary, but for their future. Those who work only for money will never be completely satisfied, since a check will never be enough. There are two attitudes that we need to avoid:

1. Laziness - Laziness has the same nature as a buzzard, it doesn't kill or earn its own food, it lives on what is left over from the work of others. If we accept laziness in our work, it will close doors of opportunity in our lives.

2. Desire for easy money - This includes those get rich quick schemes. The love of money can become obsessive and can lead people down the wrong paths like gambling, speculation traps, cheating, bribery and illegal activities.

If we do not work or will not take responsibilities, we will be set aside. When we create value, we are accepted. Personal and work relationships are based on value. Be a hard worker, outperform others, do what others won't do, and we will not only become a leader, but we will be in demand. If we are a hard worker we will be accepted, valued and appreciated, we will also be preserved and protected by others.

Good work ethics are among the qualities and values that will make any nation great; but in our world today sometimes we are not even allowed to help each other if it is not our responsibility. We want to work less and make more, have shorter hours, more benefits, longer vacations, and more holidays. We want less sweat, but more money. We have lost one of our greatest assets, the desire to work. Our welfare and support systems have made some dependent and lazy. These support systems were created to help people for a short term, not to depend on them for a living.

Benefits

1. Security - We can achieve a secure and influential position in life when we have earned it through hard work. Management will always recognize good workers and value them.

2. Wealth - If we keep increasing our value and continue growing our income, we will be on the road to developing true wealth.

3. Happiness - We experience personal fulfillment through the rewards of our work. We will receive personal satisfaction and earn a reputation of being a hard worker.

Practices

1. Be diligent - Take advantage of opportunities. Launch yourself into various efforts and focus on completion. Avoid procrastination.

2. Be the best - Do not be satisfied with the first result if it is not high quality work. Go beyond what you have done before. Demand excellence of yourself and use the best of your strength, advancing and increasing your value.

3. Be fair - When you are working for others, work as though you were the owner, giving your best efforts. If you do, you are generous to yourself and are adding to your own best interest.

4. Be generous - Always do more than what is required, going beyond your job description. Remember, generosity is not measured by what is required; it is measured by what you do. By doing the minimum, you are not advancing and increasing your value.

5. Be creative - Always ask yourself, "how can I do things better, faster, and wiser?" Do things smarter! When you are forced to be creative, you will begin to do more.

6. Be developed - You will form your character on the job. Have a global perspective about work and its importance. Work lets you provide for your family while you help others; by generating ideas and serving others, you are succeeding in life. By doing this, you will be raised to higher levels and positions. You will find your identity in the school of life. Work is not just the routine of slaving away for a salary, but it is your opportunity for personal growth and for a better future.

Hard work is a personal quality, and it will flow through us to impact our communities and our nation. Hard work is in direct relationship to efficiency, quality and intelligence.

To change yourself, take this principle and make it a habit to add value and develop your character. If you want a good future, be a hard worker.

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Key Scriptures

Colossians 3:23. "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men" -

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

Ecclesiastes 9:10. "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might, for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going."

Proverbs 6:6-8. "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."

Philippians 2:14-15. "Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world."

Quotes on Diligence

"A dream doesn't become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination and hard work." - Colin Powell

"For every two minutes of glamour, there are eight hours of hard work" - Jessica Savitch

"I learned the value of hard work by working hard"- Margaret Mead

"Inspiration is one thing and you can't control it, but hard work is what keeps the ship moving" - Kevin Eubanks

Remember...thoughts produce actions, actions become habits, habits form our character, and character determines our destiny!

Reflect and Respond

1. Do you do only what you are asked to do, or do you do more than expected?
2. Are you more concerned about what you get paid rather than what you are learning?
3. Do you like to work and assume responsibilities?
4. Do you trust only in your salary, or do you trust in something more? What is it?
5. What do you think 'hard work' really means?
6. Evaluate yourself from 1 to 10 in this character quality:
7. Why did you give yourself this rating?
8. What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?

Ask Your Mentor

1. How have you seen diligence (or lack thereof) played out for you and in coworkers that you have known?
2. How do you know if one is working too hard?
3. The bible has a lot to say about diligence. Why do you think God thinks it's important?
4. What do you think are good reasons to work hard? Faulty reasons?

Creative Connection

Think of a song, character or person from a book, movie or history, or an everyday item that personifies the main idea of this lesson and share it.

Go Do

1. Ask your boss or someone who knows you well to rate your overall level of diligence.
2. Ask God, "Which of the above 'steps to follow' should I prioritize? What would it look like to trust you to help me with that?"

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3. Practice. How I will practice this over the next month:

Go Deeper: Further Conversation & Study for those who want to go deeper.

1. What big problem do you think this session may be addressing?
2. What emotions, if any, did you have from what you learned in this session? Was there anything that surprised, excited, or angered you?
3. Look up: Proverbs 21:5, 27:23; II Peter 1:5-8,10; Ezra 7:23, 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15. Parable of the talents, Matthew 25:14–30.
4. How is this quality shown in the life of Jesus Christ?

Sources & Resources

Photo credit: Siriwat Nakha

Global Priority (LaRed), <https://globalpriority.org/>



Videos/Songs

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0DLN_6XjWOM

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FFvRWmleOQ8>