

Sunday Service : Laws of Life Series

28th July, 2024

Topic: The Law of Work

Text: Genesis 41:46-49 - *Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt. [47] Now in the seven plentiful years the ground brought forth abundantly. [48] So he gathered up all the food of the seven years which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities; he laid up in every city the food of the fields which surrounded them. [49] Joseph gathered very much grain, as the sand of the sea, until he stopped counting, for it was immeasurable. (NKJV)*

Introduction

The series on the laws of life began with an understanding of the three levels of laws that exist: Law of Flesh with the consequence of death ; Law of Spirit with the consequence of life; Law of Life which make us earthly relevant and heavenly conscious. We also established from the scripture, Genesis 41, where the Pharaoh had a revelation and couldn't gain interpretation until God brought Joseph from the prison to interpret and bring clarity. This made us affirm that the first law, The Law of Clarity, which answers the question, where are you going in life? What are you called to do? It entails identifying your destination through the power of prayer.

However, it is not only about gaining clarity, we moved further and established the Law of Planning. After understanding what God has asked you to do on earth, then you must prepare, set goal and put everything in place to achieve that assignment. We also emphasized that in planning your life, you don't waste your resources but instead you harness them adequately.

We progressed and moved to the third law, Law of Priority which talks more about rule of firsts out many other options. You must have the understanding that there will always be first in your life. The phrase, "This one thing you must do", was repeated over and over in scriptures, indicating that the dimension of first is necessary in helping a man become. But this law is not only about first but about choice - making a decision to do something as first. The law of priority also encompasses the power of denance. In other words, to make a decision of first, then you must deny yourself of something. Lastly, this law requires the ability to think to place first as first.

Now let's proceed today to the fourth law, **The Law of Work.**

Everyone that has clarity of what they want to become, must do a thorough and strategic planning and prioritize the first thing to do without taking any action is as useless as someone that did not have clarity.

- *"Action after discovery is what makes a man great. The difference between people who are great and those who are not is the ability to work and put a plan to action."*

There is a need for you as a believer and individual to wake up and work. Let's look at verse 46 of our scripture today:

"Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt."
(NKJV)

The first thing I want you to understand about this law is that **Law of Work starts with timing and season.** I pondered in my heart greatly after reading this passage, why did the bible place emphatically a statement on his age?

I tell you, there is timing and season in life to work, if you miss them you can pay for it for the rest of your life. Let me say it again like this, if you miss your season to work in life, you will eventually begin to beg at the end of time. May that not be your portion.

John 9:4 - "I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work." (NKJV)

The statement of Jesus emphasizes to us that there is always a time where you can no longer work. This is why sometimes when I come across retired people who cannot fend for themselves, I can't bring myself to pity them because they have clearly wasted their time of work playing.

"Joseph was 30 years" - this phrase is beyond the statement of his age, it is a clarification that Joseph has been working for those years before his day of glorification came.

Proverbs 20:29

The glory of young men is their strength, And the splendor of old men is their gray head. (NKJV)

This scripture is an emphasis that there is always a time to work. I encourage you if you want to make the best out of life, you must embrace the attitude of working.

Work can never kill you, it only makes you productive. You have to work to enter a place of proper rest.

Proverbs 10:4

He who has a slack hand becomes poor, But the hand of the diligent makes rich. (NKJV)

The interpretation of the latter part of this verse is, increase your work for multiple streams of income. Sitting still with only one job can't bring profit in this age. There are different skills you can learn especially online that will help you irrespective of your age.

Another thing seen about Joseph at 30 years was that his work became a blessing to others. Over years, Joseph developed his gift, interpreting to others until a day of glorification came that his gift became a help for him to save a whole nation. Can you build yourself so much that your work will be a blessing to yourself and an impact to your generation?

God is always gracious enough to lavish His blessings upon your life that every time there is a need in the church and in every Kingdom project, you will be available always to be a blessing. However, this can only come via serious work.

I have heard many false notion about many blessed people giving to a their local church; and how they try to limit their work of impact because they believe people will think you are doing too much. But the truth is, if they have really been blessed they will not think about anybody because the more you bless the church with your resources, the more God blesses you. Never don't stop being a blessing. Joseph worked so much that at 30, he became a blessing to his generation.

The question I am asking you now is How old are you and what are controlling? Why are you depending on people to help you at this age? Put yourself into a critical thinking, what are going to become with this time and your age? You are no longer small. Joseph started at 17, likewise David. Jesus broke the record and started at 12. Wake up and work!

From that same verse 46, we can deduce again that **when you master the law of work, you will always stand out.** When your work begin to speak for you even you are not there, there is no how you will not stand out. Not only that, work brings favour. If you do a proper work, everywhere you go who will always be loved and favoured. It is not only about prayer, it is the law of work. People that excel in life are workers.

Proverbs 22:29

Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before unknown men. (NKJV)

Let me break it to you, there is nothing like 'cut soap for me', as you popularly use in a slang. There is this old saying, "Don't give me fish, teach me how to catch fish." However, many don't want to work, they have been to caught up in this new wave of "Give me syndrome", always taking without wanting to give or work. If you are not working, you will always be at the mercy of everybody. God always bless what is in your hands. No matter how little it is, if you keep working , adding efforts, it will eventually make you stand out.

5 Habits to Kill to stand out like Joseph

1. Complacency

Joseph was drawn out of the pit, sold to Portiphar and received favour from his master according to the law of work to the extent that he even began to attract his master's wife. The favour of the law of work can be dangerous sometimes, learn to be careful. However, even after Joseph landed in jail, he kept working. He didn't because of what happened stop being diligent.

➤ ***"Men that stop working because of complacency cannot rise. Kill complacency."***

Every good work done make more work to come. In other work, when you are faithful in a little responsibility take more.

Proverbs 1:32 - For the turning away of the simple will slay them, And the complacency of fools will destroy them (NKJV)

Being a graduate is not the height of it all. People don't recognize the academic grade you end up with now but results - what you make use of that grade.

2. Procrastination

This is a serious habit that can stop you from working. Procrastination is a terrible habit that you must banish. Have the "habit of NOW."

Proverbs 6:9-11

How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep? [10] A little extra sleep, a little more slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest [11] and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man. (NKJV)

A practical example of this passage a lot of people will relate to is the act of snoozing alarms that are meant to wake up for devotion. You keep snoozing them till you switch it off completely and eventually don't pray or do your devotion.

Ecclesiastes 11:4 - *He who observes the wind will not sow, And he who regards the clouds will not reap. (NKJV)*

Stop making weather or anything your excuse not to work. Ignore all these and do what you have to do now. Everything you are pushing and postponing now will never make you excel. If you want to sing, buy, eat, fast, do it all now.

3. Laziness

Proverbs 10:4

He who has a slack hand becomes poor, But the hand of the diligent makes rich.
(NKJV)

Proverbs 19:15

Laziness casts one into a deep sleep, And an idle person will suffer hunger. (NKJV)

The last part sums it up. This is to back what Paul said, if no work is done then no food should be eaten.

4. Entitlement Mentality

Nobody owes you anything in this life; not your parents, uncle, and even your children. Stop picking fight with anyone that refuses to help or grant you your desire. To parents, I want you to know that it is your responsibility to take care of them. Don't wait on any child to come take care of you in future. Stop standing on their necks. But then it is only a foolish child that won't give back to you in old age. Kill that entitlement mentality.

5. Banish excuses and complain

The reason the old Israelites did not enter the promised land is because of murmuring and complaints. Be satisfied and use diligently what you have. You are a steward of whatever it is you have so use it wisely. The reason why you complain is because you don't manage the resources in your possession.

Principles of the Law of Work

1. Develop yourself

Verse 49: *Joseph gathered very much grain, as the sand of the sea, until he stopped counting, for it was immeasurable.*

As you go in life, be intentional about your development. Joseph definitely learnt this skill as they kept storing food for seven years. Make it an effort to develop yourself.

2. Delegate

This is what is called smart work. It entails distributing work that are not necessary and handling those that are necessary. Don't just be busy that you end up not showing results. When you study the life of Joseph, you will see how important delegation is in working. There are things you can do and there are things others can help you do. If you keep doing it all together, work will turn to death.

3. Devote

Verse 50 - 51: *And to Joseph were born two sons before the years of famine came, whom Asenath, the daughter of Poti-Pherah priest of On, bore to him. [51] Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: "For God has made me forget all my toil and all my father's house. (NKJV)*

No matter how busy Joseph was he had time to marry and build up his family. No matter how busy and serious your work is, you must always devote time to your family other essential relationships in your life.

May your hands make you great profit!