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# GOD EXPECTS EFFORT

II Thessalonians 3:6–11

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## INTRODUCTION

Most people enjoy rest, and rest is necessary. However, there is a clear difference between resting after work and avoiding work altogether.

In *Hebrews 4:11*, we are told to "labor therefore to enter into that rest." Even our spiritual rest requires the effort of faith.

The Bible consistently teaches that idleness is dangerous, while effort is honorable. From the beginning, God designed man to work. Work gives dignity, structure, and purpose to life.

## EFFORT IS PART OF THE ORIGINAL DESIGN

*Genesis 2:15*: "Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it."

Before sin entered the world, God gave Adam a job. Work was never meant to be a punishment; it was a divine purpose.

Imagine being given a new car and never servicing it. Likewise,

blessings without responsibility eventually deteriorate.

If God required effort in a perfect world, effort is certainly required in a fallen one.

## SIN MADE WORK HARD—NOT OPTIONAL

*Genesis 3:17–19*: "In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread..."

After sin, work became difficult and frustrating. But God did not remove the command to work; He reinforced it.

Difficulty is not an excuse—it is a call for perseverance. In a fallen world, integrity is a form of effort. It takes more effort to be honest when things are tough than to cut corners.

## THE COMMAND AGAINST IDLENESS (2 THESS. 3:6–11)

In the original Greek, "disorderly" refers to a soldier stepping out of rank. Idleness breaks the order of the community.

Inability vs. Unwillingness verses 10 Paul's strict rule: "If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat."

We must distinguish between those who cannot work (the vulnerable) and those who will not work (the idle).

The "*Busybody*" Trap verses 11. Idleness creates a vacuum filled by gossip and meddling.

***"Faith never excuses irresponsibility."***

**THE STANDARD IS WHOLEHEARTED DILIGENCE.**

***Ecclesiastes 9:10:*** "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might." This forbids a nonchalant attitude.

***Colossians 3:23:*** "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men."

God evaluates faithfulness, not convenience. Our work is a silent sermon to the watching world.

## CONCLUSION

God does not demand perfection, but He expects effort. Excuses do not impress God; faithfulness does.

Are you giving God your best effort—or offering Him your best excuses.

## THE DANGER OF EXCUSES (PROVERBS 26:13–16)

The "Lion" Excuse: The lazy man says, "There is a lion in the road!" Excuses feel logical but produce stagnation.

The Reward (***Proverbs 22:29***): Diligence opens doors to stand before kings. Consistent effort is noticed by both man and God.

## THE ULTIMATE EFFORT IS SPIRITUAL GROWTH

***Philippians 2:12–13:*** "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you..."

Salvation is by grace, but spiritual maturity requires response. A person who desires physical strength but avoids exercise will never grow strong.