

Sometimes disciples can have an idea of ministry that it kind of just falls into your hands. Men settle the yes, but it isn't their life focus. In the scripture we are going to look at; Paul is describing the characteristics of a Christian, I want to pull one aspect of that, and apply it to Discipleship and the pursuit of ministry.

Romans 12:11 (ESV) Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.

I SLOTHFUL MINISTRY APPROACH:

A- Men can have mindsets & attitudes about ministry that become a hindrance or an excuse for inactivity.

1. I'm waiting on Gods timing: Somehow this is humility in their eyes, its a safe unpresumptuous approach
2. I'm not ready yet: *I still have problems in my life, I still have so much to learn...* really its insecurity
3. I'm not very talented: In music, drama, lights, sound, video... etc.

B- But thinking like this has consequences: **Proverbs 23:7a** For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.

1. This thinking produces inactivity. a. Text uses the word SLOTHFUL.
 - a. Slothful= to be slow, to delay, to be late, to be lazy
2. This thinking disengages you from active ministry involvement.
 - a. Q: What happens when something just sits? It deteriorates.
 - i. In the body this is called Atrophy: Muscle breaks down, and even shrinks...
 - b. This is what happens to men's calling- they are delayed, and eventually will lose the vision and passion.
3. Text gives us a command: V11 Do not be slothful... Don't sit around waiting, get active.
 - a. **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.

II A FERVENT APPROACH:

A- In contrast to the slothful approach; our text follows up with a command: V11 Be fervent in spirit.

1. Fervent carries the idea's To seethe, bubble, boil; from the sound of boiling water...
 - a. Thats a picture of being HOT, or active... not sitting still cold water, but boiling with activity.
2. IOW: Fervent is application: Apply yourself. Avail Yourself. Commit yourself to ministry & calling.
 - a. Many guys spectate... get in & get involved... Get into the work.
 - i. **Luke 10:2** Then He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.
3. Now; Don't mistake this for *WORKS* or Busyness for people pleasing... Rather a pursuit of what God has called you

B- This has value because activity actually becomes a motivator.

1. **Matthew 6:21** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also...
 - a. When you give your treasures, your heart will follow, your passion will follow, your life focus will follow.
 - i. When I became active, I became more stirred... and the more I committed myself the fire stayed!
 - ii. I see men get genuinely stirred, but because they are slothful, they lose that stirring... Activity keeps the fire!
1. One translation says: Never let the fire in your heart go out. Keep it alive. Serve the Lord.

III BUILDING A MAN OF GOD:

A- Involvement not only keeps your spiritually on fire, it actually prepares & equips you.

1. Q: Why do you think that is?
 - a. It REVEALS: Where you lack ability, where you lack understanding, where you lack dominion.
 - i. Wouldn't you rather know that today, then when your out pioneering or taking over?
2. So your actually gaining wisdom in a wide range of areas. Ive met the same people in NM, NY, & AZ...

B- Lastly; activity actually gets to the heart of Pastoral Ministry: which is SERVICE.

1. It's all about serving people. This will never change. *I watch PG serve the fellowship, discipleship, congregation.*
 - a. In serving people: you are "serving the time," & "the occasion"... which in turn serves the people.
2. YOU CANT DO EVERYTHING, BUT ARE YOU DOING EVERYTHING YOU CAN?
 - a. Are you serving in a way that seeks to step into Gods will and facilitate Gods will?