

WORD

Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits lacks sense.

PROVERBS 12:11

Work, just like everything we have, is a blessing from God. He doesn't simply give us a job or an opportunity to serve; He also gives us the strength, wisdom, and grace to complete it and do it well. If we work our land, we will be blessed with what we need. But if we follow *worthless pursuits*, we show ourselves foolish and lacking sense. In this lesson, we will look at how we are to work according to the work of Proverbs: with skill, integrity, and diligence.

1 Skill

Do you see a man skillful in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men. **PROVERBS 22:29**

Those who are skillful in their work will be recognized for it—even by kings and those in authority. This means that everything we do should be done with utmost care and excellence. If we are faithful with little and make it grow, what does Jesus promise (Matthew 25:21)?

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2 Integrity

Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out. PROVERBS 10:9

When we work, as followers of Jesus, we reflect on who He is and we represent Him. Therefore, we are to walk in integrity and do what is right—even when it’s not easy, even when we could get away with shortcuts, and even when people don’t recognize or appreciate the work we do. What does “integrity” mean? Why is it impossible to have integrity without God’s help and strength?

3 Diligence

A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich. PROVERBS 10:4

This verse contrasts laziness and diligence. If we are lazy and slack in our work, poverty will follow. But if we are diligent and hard working, abundance and prosperity will follow. The Bible always commands God’s people to work hard and work well, so He can be honored, and we can be a blessing to many. What does it mean to be diligent? How have you learned to be diligent?

APPLICATION

- What kind of worker are you, and what kind of worker do you want to be? How can you apply what you learned in this coming week?
- How can you be a man or woman of integrity? What aspect of your life is not aligned to who God wants you to be, and what will you do about it?
- In what area do you need to be more diligent? How can you be more diligent every day?

PRAYER

- Thank God for the truth of God's Word and how following His Word leads to blessing and success.
- Ask God for grace, wisdom, and the character to do your work well every day. Pray that God would provide for your needs as you work your land.
- Pray that your life and character would be a godly example to those you come across and work with.



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