

Work Brings Opportunity

Proverbs 10:5 Opportunity

He who gathers in summer is a wise son, but he who sleeps in harvest is a son who causes shame.

1. Opportunity is a blessing ... a precious blessing from God. Wise men exploit them for great gain and honor. Foolish men squander them to poverty and shame. Wise men see a door of opportunity and rush through it with passionate zeal - they are gripped by the potential of extraordinary gain. Foolish men miss the door, or presume it will always be there, and head for home with lazy steps - they are dulled by the desire to play or sleep.

- Opportunity is not guaranteed. Life is a changing scene of prosperity and difficulty. The agricultural cycle had a great opportunity during summer harvest. Wise men gathered all they could with extra effort and time. Foolish men dreaded the extra demands and could not see the reward, so they sought to avoid the hot fields. "There is a time to get, and a time to lose"; the wise know when to get, and fools always lose! If you snooze, you lose!
- When times are good, gather all you can for leaner times to come. Both come from the Lord, but the wisdom of this proverb teaches you how to handle both events! Business cycles, prosperity, depression, and promotion are the work of God ([Eccl 7:14](#)). Diligently accumulate much when it is easy, and you will have extra to fall back on when it is hard. You cannot boast of tomorrow, so you must provide for tomorrow ([22:3](#); [27:1,23-24](#)).
- In this section of Proverbs, Solomon gave his son rules for success ([10:1](#)), and he began with financial rules. He taught righteousness in business ([10:2](#)), providence in business ([10:3](#)), and diligence in business ([10:4](#)). The rule here is prudence in business - to diligently use opportunities to accumulate assets, for a slothful neglect of opportunities will bring poverty. Even ants know to work hard and save in the summer ([6:6-11](#); [30:25](#)).
- America is the land of opportunity, and it has been for a very long time. Wise men have taken advantage of this incredible blessing, but foolish men have squandered it foolishly. Many have come to these shores with nothing, but through hard work and frugal savings they built comfortable estates. Others, born on these shores, think that prosperity is easy and squander the many opportunities here to their own poverty and shame.
- Every man, especially in this blessed nation, has many opportunities in education, business, and investments for great gains. He must see the opportunity, be prepared for it, and capitalize on it. "Time and chance happeneth to them to all," but have you exploited the times and chances God has given you ([Eccl 9:11](#))? Most opportunities occur in the earlier stages of life; young men have greater drive and flexibility than others; and the consequences of their sloth are greater; so the proverb is primarily for young men.

Young man, are you opening educational doors to gather knowledge, learn valuable skills, or acquire a trade? Are you using your present income with minimal expenses to accumulate the seed capital for lucrative future investments? Are you building

relationships with your father's and other contacts for future references? Young man, are you working feverishly in a company known for promoting from within? Do you know that playing or sleeping now will cost you much more than playing or sleeping later?

7. If you waste opportunity, you tempt God ([Luke 4:12](#)). He gave you the means to success, but you neglected them. If you have a talent - of any kind, do not bury it! When troubles come, He will not hear, because you wasted His gift ([1:20-32](#); [20:4](#); [Matt 25:14-30](#)). If He opens a door - of any kind - rush through it with holy zeal. David said, "By my God have I leaped over a wall" ([Ps 18:29](#)). Glory! Many in the world have few opportunities, so exploit the ones He gives you! To whom much is given shall much be required!

8. Elisha gave Joash, the king of Israel, an opportunity to fix the number of victories Israel would have over the Syrians; but the indolent king only struck the ground three times ([II Kgs 13:14-19](#)). Elisha grieved that he had not taken greater advantage of this divinely granted opportunity to exterminate the Syrians! Dear reader, how many opportunities in your life have you squandered by only smiting the ground three times? Confess it!

When the money tree is blooming, pick it clean and save most of it! When any personnel change occurs in your office, locate the vacuum and fill it! When a rising star could be your mentor or sponsor, grab his coattail with both hands! When a successful man offers you a piece of his action, do your due diligence and dive in! When rare overtime is available, volunteer for it in advance! When you are reading God's word and feel knowledge and pleasure in your soul, read longer to fully capitalize on that special grace!

There are more than financial opportunities, which you also ought to exploit with diligent zeal! How about the opportunity of wisdom in this proverb and its commentary! Are you reading it with fired zeal and holy excitement? Are you intent on accumulating that most precious of all commodities - wisdom? Are you meditating on every sentence? Asking the blessed God to prosper your efforts to grow wise? Or will He take from you the little knowledge you have and give it to the man who does make such efforts ([Luke 8:18](#))?

9. How about the opportunity of conviction to please the Lord more perfectly?

When these seasons of harvest come to your life by the grace of the Holy Spirit, do you rush through the open door to draw closer than ever before to the living God? Or are you so infatuated with the world that these open doors appear only as empty closets in your rush down the hall of life to the vanity and excess of this profane, perverse, and damned generation?

10. How about the opportunity of preparing to stand before the King of kings and Lord of lords? If you understand the reality of this approaching event, you have been given a blessed opportunity. You will soon pass out of this bustling world through the darkness of death into the light of His glorious Presence. You should, like the unjust steward, be laying up a good foundation against that time to come ([Luke 16:1-15](#); [I Tim 6:17-19](#)).

Proverbs 16:3 Commit

Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.

1. I don't know what to do! I'm so confused! I feel overwhelmed! Such miserable doubts are the cost of losing your peace in the LORD. But it can be easily recovered, if you commit your works to Him. He will settle, comfort, and strengthen you ([I Pet 5:10](#)).
2. In a sinful and uncertain world, where you cannot know tomorrow, there are often many doubts, fears, perplexities, and worries. But this is not the life God desires or planned for His children. He can and will take your painful cares away, if you commit all to Him. His promised, permanent presence brings both contentment and courage ([Heb 13:5-6](#)).
3. Peter wrote about the Lord's tender care, "Casting all your care upon Him; for he careth for you" ([I Pet 5:7](#)). And David, who faced many and severe difficulties, wrote with confidence and experience, "Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved" ([Ps 55:2](#)). Believe both promises!
4. Paul wrote, "Be careful for nothing ... and the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" ([Phil 4:6-7](#)). Jesus comforted, "Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself" ([Matt 6:34](#)). This great comfort is based on His ability and care, and all you need to do to obtain it is trust Him and seek His kingdom first ([Matt 6:25-33](#)).
5. You commit your works unto the LORD by doing everything His way. Esteem His precepts to be perfect and sufficient ([3:7](#); [Ps 119:128](#)). If you totally leave your own understanding, and in all your ways acknowledge Him, He will direct your paths ([3:5-6](#)). Joshua found the first walled city in Canaan to be easy doing it the LORD's way ([Josh 6:20](#))! Overwhelmed as a parent? Perfect knowledge is right here in the book of Proverbs.
6. You commit your works unto the LORD by doing them unto Him. "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" ([I Cor 10:31](#)). "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him" ([Col 3:17](#)). Everything works out for those loving God, for they are the ones appointed to glory according to His eternal purpose ([Rom 8:28](#))!
7. You commit your works unto the LORD by turning them over to Him. You do this by prayer with thanksgiving ([Phil 4:6](#); [Col 4:2](#)). If you keep your mind fixed on the LORD Jehovah, rather than your dilemmas, you will find perfect peace ([Is 26:3-4](#)). When facing a great army, Jehoshaphat led a public prayer meeting, where he prayed among other things, "Neither know we what to do" ([II Chron 20:1-19](#)). God fought the battle for Him! The Lord Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled ... believe also in me" ([John 14:1](#)).
8. You commit your works unto the LORD by trusting Him for the results. It is vain and distressing when you think the results depend on you. The results depend on Him, and He suggests you take a nap ([Ps 127:1-2](#))! Once you have made reasonable plans, turn the rest over to His gracious and sovereign will ([16:9](#); [Ps 37:3-7](#); [Jas 4:13-15](#)). Such trust will fix and establish your heart without fear, regardless of your situation ([Ps 112:7-8](#)).

9. Surrounded with enemies on all sides, Joab committed an important battle to the LORD, and had a great victory ([II Sam 10:9-14](#)). Two widows, uncertain of their future, sent one to glean, with both trusting in their great Father in heaven: she not only obtained much free food, but also a rich husband ([Ruth 2:1-23](#))!
10. Paul knew the truth of this proverb as well as any. He faced more difficulties at any one time than you could even imagine in a lifetime. But he said, "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed" ([II Cor 4:8-9](#)). He had committed his works to the LORD.

Dear reader, what troubles you today? What faces you that distresses your mind? Commit your works unto the LORD, and He will establish your thoughts. Do them His way; do them unto Him; turn them over to Him in prayer; and trust Him for the results. He will take care of you immediately, by blessing you with contentment, peace, and assurance. Our blessed Lord faced the ultimate challenge and difficulty in the horrifying work of our redemption on the cross of Calvary, but He committed Himself to the LORD ([I Pet 2:23](#)). He was heard, and an angel came and strengthened Him ([Heb 5:7-10](#); [Luke 22:43](#)). You should also, doing well in obedience, commit the keeping of your soul to your faithful Creator ([I Pet 4:19](#)). The same servants will minister unto you ([Ps 34:7](#); [Heb 1:13-14](#)).