

PROVERBS | DIRECTIONS FOR LIFE: WISDOM AND SLOTHFULNESS
PROVERBS 6:6-11; 24:30-34; COLOSSIANS 4:2-6; ACTS 11:21-26;
SECOND THESSALONIANS 3:6-7, 10-12
2ND STREET COMMUNITY CHURCH
SUNDAY, 7 FEBRUARY 2010
GREGG LAMM | LEAD PASTOR-TEACHER
www.2ndstreet.org

Welcome again to worship at 2nd Street. It's good to be together ... worshipping God and fellowshiping with one another, and encouraging one another to live out our common **MISSION** as a flock to ...

OUR MISSION ...

**2ND STREET COMMUNITY CHURCH: BECOMING MORE LIKE JESUS
CHRIST BY LOVING GOD, LOVING PEOPLE, AND SERVING OUR WORLD.**

This morning, in our fifth of twelve teachings from *The Old Testament* book of **PROVERBS**, we'll look at Solomon's instruction to us about slothfulness. But since I don't think most of us are slackers, or deadbeats, I'm not going to beat us over the head for not putting our shoulders more intentionally into the plows of life or faith. But I want us to look at two different realms of being a sluggard.

**Being a sluggard in the
NATURAL**

**Being lazy and slothful ... having
unhealthy boundaries with others
and with self. (numerous PROVERBS)**

**Being a sluggard in the
SPIRITUAL**

**Being self-indulgent and self-
dependent instead of being
servants and God-dependents
(COLOSSIANS 4; ACTS 11; SECOND
THESSALONIANS 3)**

But before we unpack the truths in these different passages from *The Old Testament* to *The New Testament*, I want to tell you about a passage of God's WORD that really nailed a couple days ago - and that God has been using to encourage me to look into my own life and into the life of our flock. And through this passage God has been helping me be more honest about what I'm seeing in terms of where I'm at and where we're at as a church when it comes to inviting God to develop in us the character of Jesus Christ.

And I believe that God led me to this passage in His WORD because of the ways it connects with the rest of this morning's teaching. Let me explain what I mean ...

This past week I was reading the annual Bible-reading plan that's in our bulletin each week, and that you can pick up in a **TWO-MONTH AT A TIME** version on any given Sunday at the *Community Center*, or download in an **ANNUAL** version in the *Bible Teaching* section of our website at www.2ndstreet.org.

In **EXODUS 35-38** I read a description of the type of people God chose to build the Tabernacle - which was the portable Temple the Israelites made and carried around the wilderness during the forty years in between when they left the slavery of Egypt and entered the promised land ... the land that is now the nation of Israel.

And as I read about the characteristics God was looking for 3,500+ years ago in those who called themselves “His people”, I realized that God is still looking for the same kind of people to partner with Him in what He’s up to in the world today. Listen to how this passage describes the **CHARACTER** and the **PERSPECTIVE** of the type of people God chose to build the Tabernacle and it’s contents, and the kind of people He’s still looking for to get His work done in the world ...

EXODUS 35:30-31 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)

³⁰ Then Moses said to the sons of Israel, “See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah.

³¹ “And He has *filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all craftsmanship;* [emphasis added]

God **WAS** and **IS** looking for people who are surrendered to Him and filled with the Holy Spirit ... people growing in the three things we’ve heard Solomon call us to in our study of **PROVERBS** ... knowledge, understanding, and wisdom. Do you see it? Because only when these first four things are in place ... can the fifth thing happen. And the first four have to do with our **HEARTS AND MINDS**, and the fifth has to do with our **SKILLS AND ABILITIES**. Here’s where we need to be for God to use us ...

1. When we’re surrendered to and filled with the Holy Spirit ...
2. When we’re increasing in our knowledge of God’s WORD ...
3. When we’re deepening in our understanding of God’s calling to us ...
4. When we’re wisely living out the truths of God’s Word that we’ve gained knowledge of and understanding about ... and then ...
5. Then and only then does God finally mention the importance of our skill-set ... or more specifically at the end of **v. 31** that He needed someone with craftsmanship.

And I see our **FIRST FAITH LESSON** this morning in this progression of truth ...

FAITH LESSON ...

God cares about our **HEARTS AND MINDS FIRST**, and about our **SKILLS AND ABILITIES SECOND**. But it’s usually easier to give our **SKILLS AND ABILITIES** to God first, and keep our **HEARTS AND MINDS** to ourselves, than it is the other way around.

But once we give God our **HEARTS AND MINDS**, then God can begin using our **SKILLS AND ABILITIES** for His purposes. And ultimately, that’s what will bring us to a place of joy and contentment.

As I’ve told you before, God is more concerned about our **FAITHFULNESS** than about our **QUALIFICATIONS**. And it’s so easy to get this backwards. But the truth about

God's priorities, and what He's looking for in the people who follow Him, and who He can use in this life to accomplish His plans, continues to open up in **EXODUS 36** ...

EXODUS 36:1-2 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)

¹ Now Bezalel and Oholiab, and every *skillful* person in whom the Lord has put skill and *understanding* to know how to perform all the work in the construction of the sanctuary, shall perform in accordance with all that the Lord has commanded.”

² Then Moses called Bezalel and Oholiab and every *skillful* person in whom the Lord had put *skill*, everyone whose *heart stirred him*, to come to the work to perform it. [*emphasis added*]

God has given each of us **skills**, and when we surrender our **hearts** to Him and pursue His **knowledge** ... and then when we surrender our **minds** to Him and pursue His **understanding**, then we'll be equipped to live out His **wisdom**. And in that place of surrender our hearts will be **stirred** to give all that we are, and all that we do over to God's purposes, and to the maturing of our life of faith with God.

And I believe that this is the posture, the perspective, and the attitude God wants you and me as His followers to have as we dig into what He has to say to us about **moving past slothfulness** and **redeeming the time** we've been given here on this earth.

1. Let's be **surrendered to and filled with God's Holy Spirit**.
2. Let's increase in our **knowledge** of God's WORD.
3. Let's go deeper in our **understanding** of God's plans for us.
4. Let's be committed to **wisely** putting into practice and living out the truths of God's Word that we've gained **knowledge** of and **understanding** about ... and ...
5. Let's give God our **skill-set**, and invite Him to stir us up to live out His plans in new ways ... full of energy, joy, purpose, and vision.

I hope while you've been reading through this **PROVERBS** day-by-day, you've been seeing the practical wisdom that God wants to see us apply in our lives. But if you've been reading **PROVERBS**, then you've probably also noticed that it's wise words aren't always all that tactful or polite. I love this definition of the word "**tact**" that I heard years ago in a sermon by pastor-teacher Chuck Swindoll ...

"TACT is the gracious ability to make people feel like they're at home, when frankly, you kinda wish they were."

The truth of the matter is that much of the time, wisdom can be tactless and downright blunt! Some of the time when we hear wisdom's counsel, it can make us feel **not too at home**, uncomfortable, and put out.

Now that I've laid the foundation for the kind of people God is looking for as His followers, and at the kind of attitudes, actions, words, and priorities He can use to further His Kingdom, let's go to **PROVERBS 6** and zero in on this topic of **laziness** and **slothfulness**, and what Solomon has to say to "**the sluggard**".

PROVERBS 6:6-9 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)

⁶ Go to the ant, O sluggard, observe her ways and be wise,
⁷ which, having no chief, officer or ruler,
⁸ prepares her food in the summer *and* gathers her provision in the harvest.
⁹ How long will you lie down, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep?

Sluggard is a word we don't use too much anymore ... but basically, a **sluggard** is a **lazy person**. Like a slug moves slowly and leaves a mess behind him, a **sluggard** moves slowly and leaves a trail of messiness behind himself or herself. And Solomon is telling the **lazy person** to **look at the ant for an example of how to change**.

vv. 6-8 ... The Hebrew word translated **chief** in **v. 7** is the word **qatsiyn** (**kaw-tseen**) and it means **commander, overseer, or ruler**. And in Solomon's use of it here, the **ant** is a **TYPE**, a **SYMBOL**, or an **ILLUSTRATION** of a **person who is in a relationship with Jesus Christ and being led by the Holy Spirit**. And as such, this person doesn't always need an outside source of guidance, because they're being led by the Holy Spirit of God living inside of them. More about that in a minute.

v. 9 ... **[the ant] prepares her food in the summer and gathers her provision in the harvest**. Ants instinctively know when to gather. And so should you and I as followers of Jesus Christ. Yes, there are times in our lives when nearly all of us could receive huge benefit from talking with a trained, professional counselor - and if you need to know of one, talk with me and I'll help make a referral for you.

But any professional counselor worth their salt doesn't like being used as a co-dependent crutch. Gang, God loves using a variety of methods to speak truth into our lives ... including His **WORD**, other people, professional and lay counselors, doctors, books, prayer, meditation, and more. But God never intended counseling to be a substitute for **wisdom, maturity, healing, and common sense**. And I see a **SECOND**, critical **FAITH LESSON** for us here ...

FAITH LESSON ...

If we want to grow up before we grow old, we need to remain attentive to God's desire to bring His pruning, correction, training, and healing to us through His **WORD** and through the work of His Holy Spirit - Who in **JOHN 14** is called our Counselor, Helper, and Friend.

When you and I listen to these primary pathways of God's voice and instruction to us, we'll have clarity to hear His voice in the other important, but secondary pathways He longs to speak to us.

PROVERBS 6:10-11 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)

¹⁰ A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest -
¹¹ your poverty will come in like a vagabond and your need like an armed man.

In these two verses Solomon is talking about actual **physical sleep** and telling us that when it's time to get up after a night's sleep, we need to get up ... and that when we sleep when we should be awake, we end up robbing ourselves of success and the ability to get important things done. **"CURSE YOU OH DEMONIC SNOOZE BAR!"**

And friends, as much as we don't want to hear it, this is really wise counsel. Because in many, many ways, our **PHYSICAL, PRACTICAL, NATURAL** life is a reflection of our **SPIRITUAL** life. And if we want God to do His part in helping us become the people He desires that we become, then we've got to meet Him halfway! And if we don't, then the truths Solomon expresses in **v. 11** will become all too true in our lives.

v. 11 ... your poverty (brokenness and lack) will come in like a vagabond and your need like an armed man. ... The fruit of laziness Solomon refers to here as **poverty**, meaning **brokenness and lack**, usually creeps up on us little by little. But once this kind of **poverty** has taken root in our **HEARTS, MINDS, ATTITUDES, ACTIONS,** and **HABITS**, it's like an **armed burglar**, who sneaked in and held us up at gunpoint. We feel helpless against him ... and then it isn't long before this **robber** has taken away from us everything we once held dear. And this is why Solomon calls you and me to **wake up out of our slumber** and stand our guard against **"creeping poverty."**

And remember from what I've said earlier this morning, that when we think about being **lazy**, we're not just talking about people who sleep fifteen hours a day and play video games the other nine. There's some of that kind of thinking here in Solomon's words to be sure ... but after we look at that kind of narrow focus to what he's calling us out on, and calling us to, we need to expand our thinking about what it means to be a **sluggard**, and consider the reality that we can be productive in many ways in our lives, and yet remain **lazy** in terms of our spiritual growth and maturity.

PROVERBS 12:24 (NEW LIVING TRANSLATION)

²⁴ Work hard and become a leader; be lazy and become a slave.

There are a lot of Christians who are spiritually lazy. They just want to come to church on Sunday and get fed. Oh, they may come to a service or a small group once in a while too - but only when it doesn't interrupt the schedule of their lives. Gang, we need to obey the command of the Apostle Paul in **EPHESIANS 5:14** when he wrote, **"Awake, O sleeper, rise up from the dead, and Christ will give you light."**

We need to wake up and say to ourselves, **"I'm going to get my spiritual priorities back in order! I'm going to surrender to God's Holy Spirit. I'm going to increase in knowledge, understanding, and wisdom. And I'm giving God my skill-set and invite Him stir and live out His plans in me and through me in new ways ... full of energy, joy, purpose, and vision.**

Lazy, slothful, God-negligent people don't have **LIFE PRIORITIES**, and they usually don't have **SPIRITUAL PRIORITIES**. They haven't asked God for a vision rooted in His plans for them, and for how He's wired them, and that are connected to how He wants to use them to accomplish His purposes in the world. They just kind of float through life, taking the path of least resistance, bouncing from one thing to the next.

And people like this, oftentimes have the best intentions. Oh, they're always going to do something big - tomorrow, or next month, or next year, or when they're through with school, or once they get married, or when they have kids, or after the kids are grown, or when they retire. They have **BIG IDEAS**. But they never seem to put them into practice. Or they start some project, but they seldom see it through to completion. And all along the road of life, they wonder how come they haven't accomplished much. Here's how Solomon puts this in **PROVERBS 12:27** ...

PROVERBS 12:27 (NEW LIVING TRANSLATION)

²⁷ **Lazy people don't even cook the food they catch, but the *diligent* make use of everything they find. [*emphasis added*]**

Lazy people - both physically and spiritually speaking, seldom appreciate what they have. You give a **sluggard** something valuable and it won't be long before it's lost, broken, or just ignored and misplaced. And because **sluggards** don't take care of what they have, they usually don't have anything worth owning. Let's look at five verses out of **PROVERBS 24** and see another way Solomon describes for us the results of laziness ... both in the **NATURAL** in the **SPIRITUAL**.

PROVERBS 24:30-34 (NEW CENTURY VERSION)

³⁰ I passed by a lazy person's field and by the vineyard of someone with no sense.

³¹ Thorns had grown up everywhere. The ground was covered with weeds, and the stonewalls had fallen down.

³² I thought about what I had seen; I learned this lesson from what I saw.

³³ You sleep a little; you take a nap. You fold your hands and lie down to rest.

³⁴ Soon you will be as poor as if you had been robbed; you will have as little as if you had been held up.

Oh, you've had a neighbor like the one Solomon describes here? Remember that the primary Hebrew word for **wisdom** that Solomon uses throughout **PROVERBS** is the word **chomah**, which literally means, "that which is pounded in." And Solomon just wants to **pound this wise truth** into our hearts, into our minds, and into our priorities, until our actions show that we get it. And I see a **THIRD FAITH LESSON** for us here ...

FAITH LESSON ...

If you want to move ahead in your faith, if you want your maturity in Christ to deepen, if you want your inward faith to turn outward in obvious ways, if you want to succeed at the life Jesus Christ is calling you to engage ... in your *work*, in your *relationships*, in your *church*, or as a *student*, then you can't afford to be self-indulgent.

Jesus Christ calls His followers to die to self (**LUKE 9:23-24**), and become *alive* (*rooted and growing*) in Him.

Selfishness, ego, and self-indulgence is such an easy trap to fall into, isn't it?

ILLUSTRATION ... A few years ago *Renaissance Entertainment Inc.* of Orlando came up with “*Ego Trip: A Ride About You.*” The amusement ride, which Renaissance wanted to sell to theme parks or to operate at fairs, would use riders’ names, photos and voices to create a totally personalized experience.

As paparazzi snap away and adoring fans call their names, riders will attend their own movie premier. They’ll visit an art museum where they’ll view paintings of themselves as done by Picasso, Warhol and van Gogh.

They’ll attend a political rally where they’ll be urged to run for President of the United States, and a sporting event where they’ll be praised for their athletic abilities. And finally, they’ll enjoy a ticker-tape parade in their honor.

Afterward, ego-stroked riders will proceed to the gift shop – where they can buy all sorts of stuff emblazoned with their images. “What’s everyone’s favorite subject? Themselves,” *Renaissance* President Jon Binkowski said, “This is taking that to the nth degree.” Right.

We laugh, and yet we laugh because we know. We all struggle in some way or another with what Martin Luther King Jr. called “*The Drum Major Instinct*”. We want to be out in the front of the band, leading the way. We want to be at the head of the pack. We want to make own decisions, chart our own destinies. We want the world to revolve around us. When we’re babies we call this stage “**the terrible twos**” ... but when adults still have the attitude of “**It’s all about me**”, they’re usually considered self-centered, immature brats.

But pride and conceit aren’t the way of Jesus Christ. And lazy people, people with a “self-directed” attitude toward life, are usually conceited and love blaming other people for their problems ... when all along, the real problem is them. And gang, if any of these symptoms describe you and where you find yourself right now ... then listen to what the WORD of God is saying to you this morning.

Maybe you don’t sleep in all the time ... maybe you’re a hard worker. But in the end, if it always comes down to you and what you want, instead of to Jesus Christ and what He wants ... then I’m glad you’re here this morning - because it’s time for you to admit that the root of many of your problems is ego and love of self.

We can’t blame this on the devil, or on other people, because when we live this way it’s because we’ve chosen to live this way. And we bring the fruit of this choice onto ourselves and often onto other people in our lives as well. Out of selfishness and immaturity, we allow Satan to take advantage of our weakness.

And friends, the right step to take to overcome a **spirit of laziness**, or an **attitude of slothfulness**, is to quit blaming our problems on others, or on our spouse, or on our

kids, or on our boss, on the world, or on the devil. We need to admit the truth, as difficult as it will be ... that much of our situation is the result of our own choices.

I know as well as the rest of you how hard it is to admit our own responsibility for the state of our life. But once we come to terms with this truth and make the choice to accept responsibility for our own past actions, and move **THROUGH** and **PAST** the resentments we have for how the actions of others have impacted us, **AND EVEN SHAPED OUR LIVES**, then it becomes a lot easier to take Holy Spirit-led steps toward the life of healing discipleship God has for us through Jesus Christ.

And this reality is why *Celebrate Recovery* is making such a huge difference in the lives of so many people. Check out the *Celebrate Recovery* information table against the wall, to the left of the coffee. This ministry, which helps people bring their hurts, habits, and hang-ups to God, has grown a lot this past year, but there are still a lot of people here who need to connect with the honesty, the healing, and the new beginnings God offers each week at *Celebrate Recovery*.

Of course, it won't be easy, but no matter what your past has been like, **GOD CAN HELP YOU CHANGE**. Here's what Jesus said in **LUKE 18:27** when asked about how people change ... **The things impossible for people are possible for God.**" With God's help we **CAN** have new beginnings! If this wasn't the case, there wouldn't have been any reason for Solomon to write the book of **PROVERBS**. Turn with me to *The New Testament* book of **COLOSSIANS**, and let's look at what it means to be Christ-centered instead of self-centered in our outlook on life and faith.

COLOSSIANS 4:2-6 (ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION)

²⁻³ Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison -
⁴⁻⁶ that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

What a beautiful description of men and women who are making the choice to die to self and become alive in Jesus Christ. And when you and I make this choice, here's some of what will begin to happen **IN US** and **THROUGH US** ...

- We will remain steadfast in prayer ... praying publicly and privately for the needs of others when led by God to do so.
- We will be alert and discerning about the needs around us.
- We will have an attitude of thanksgiving for what God has provided for us instead of focusing on what we don't have.
- We will be committed to praying for the physical and spiritual needs of others, asking God how He wants to use us to meet the needs of those He brings across our paths.

- We will be aware of how those who are not yet in a relationship with Jesus Christ view us, making sure we're giving people the right impression about what it means to be a follower of Christ.
- We will be aware that life has a beginning and an end, and that we need to make the most of the time we're given in this life. No time to waste being lazy or slothful, either in the *NATURAL* or in the *SPIRITUAL*.
- We will be willing to let God pour His grace and forgiveness through us to others.
- And we will live our lives in such a way that when people ask us about our faith, we'll be able to talk with them about it in natural and truthful ways ... not with arrogance or self at the center of the conversation, but with Jesus Christ at the center of all our motivations, attitudes, words, priorities, thoughts, and actions, we will be humbled and equipped by God to be like "one hungry beggar telling another hungry beggar where to find bread."

In ACTS 11 there's a description of the church in the town of Antioch ... and in vv. 21-26 we see what it looks like when Christians make up their minds to move away from the slothfulness that keeps self at the center of things and toward Jesus Christ.

ACTS 11:21-26 (THE MESSAGE)

²¹⁻²³ God was pleased with what the followers of Jesus Christ in Antioch were doing, and put His stamp of approval on it – quite a number of the Greeks believed and turned to the Master. When the church in Jerusalem got wind of this, they sent Barnabas to Antioch to check on things. As soon as he arrived, he saw that God was behind and in it all. He threw himself in with them, got behind them, urging them to stay with it the rest of their lives.

²⁴⁻²⁶ He was a good man that way, enthusiastic and confident in the Holy Spirit's ways. *The community grew large and strong in the Master.* Then Barnabas went on to Tarsus to look for Saul. He found him and brought him back to Antioch. They were there a whole year, meeting with the church and teaching a lot of people. It was in Antioch that the disciples were for the first time called Christians. [emphasis added]

Oh, that all we do as a flock would be birthed out of our relationship with Jesus Christ, and the changes He's bringing into our lives. Because that's what God is pleased with, that's what God can put His stamp of approval on, and that's what will lead more and more people to come into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

And when this aroma of *CHRIST-DEPENDENCE*, instead of *SELF-DEPENDENCE* becomes the hallmark of who we are and what we're doing, God will continue to send others to join us ... those who are not yet in a relationship with Jesus Christ - so that they can meet Jesus Christ here ... as well as those who are already in a relationship with Jesus Christ - so that they can mature in Jesus Christ here.

As the shepherd and teacher of 2nd Street, how I long that the report that was spoken of concerning the church at Antioch would become more and more true of us here - that we'd grow strong in the Master, and humbly become more and more dependent on the plans and purposes of God.

Let's wrap up by reading the words of the Apostle Paul in **SECOND THESSALONIANS 3** about being **accountable contributors** in life, in faith, in relationships, and in our jobs, instead of being irresponsible takers.

SECOND THESSALONIANS 3:6-7, 10-12 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)

⁶ Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who leads an *unruly life* and not according to the tradition which you received from us.

⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an *undisciplined manner* among you,

¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: *if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either.*

¹¹ For we hear that some among you are *leading an undisciplined life*, doing no work at all, but acting like *busybodies*.

¹² Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ *to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread.*

Solomon has told us about the pitfalls of being a **sluggard**. And we know all too well the downfall of letting this attitude **INFECT** and **AFFECT** not only our **NATURAL** lives, but our **SPIRITUAL** lives as well. Mediocrity is for the stammering uncommitted, not for those whose hearts are really centered on becoming the people God is calling them to become. I love how this truth is framed in a piece of writing whose author is unknown, but whose words speak of all God's WORD has been calling us to this morning. It's entitled "**THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE UNASHAMED.**"

THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE UNASHAMED

I am part of "**THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE UNASHAMED.**"
The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line.
The decision has been made. I am a disciple of
Jesus Christ. I won't look back, let up, slow down,
back away, or be still.

My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, and my
future is secure. I am finished and done with low living,
walking by sight, small planning, smooth knees, colorless
dreams, selfish giving, and dwarfed goals.

I no longer need pre-eminence, prosperity, position,
promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I now live by God's
presence, lean by faith, love by patience, lift by prayer,
and labor by power.

My pace is set, my gait is fast, my goal is Heaven, my
road is narrow, my way is rough, my companions are few,

my Guide is reliable, and my mission is clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, deterred, lured away, turned back, diluted, or delayed.

I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of adversity, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. I must go until Heaven returns, give until I drop, speak out until all know, and work until He comes. And when Jesus Christ comes to get His own, He will have no problem recognizing me. My colors will be clear. For I am not ashamed of the Gospel. I am part of *“THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE UNASHAMED.”*

1. Let's be surrendered to and filled with God's Holy Spirit.
2. Let's increase in our knowledge of God's WORD.
3. Let's go deeper in our understanding of God's plans for us.
4. Let's be committed to wisely putting into practice and living out the truths of God's Word that we've gained knowledge of and understanding about ... and finally ...
5. Let's give God our skill-set, and invite Him to stir us up to live out His plans in new ways ... full of energy, joy, purpose, and vision.

***NEXT SUNDAY ... GOD'S WISE INSTRUCTION TO PARENTS
COME PRAYING AND EXPECTING ...***