



OVERCOMING LAZINESS

| Mount Zion Church | Sunday Service | 20 December 2020 |

Sometimes we may feel too lazy to do anything. But truly laziness is a big problem! Another word for laziness is **procrastination** that means the action of delaying or postponing something. Proverbs told us: Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come back, and tomorrow I will give it," When you have it with you *Pro.3:28*. Also Proverbs told us: He who is slothful in his work is a brother to him who is a great destroyer *Pro.18:9*.

Amsal 3:28 Janganlah engkau berkata kepada sesamamu: "Pergilah dan kembalilah, besok akan kuberi," sedangkan yang diminta ada padamu.

Amsal 18:9 Orang yang bermalas-malas dalam pekerjaannya sudah menjadi saudara dari si perusak.



Joshua 18:3

Then Joshua said to the children of Israel: “**How long** will you **neglect** to go and possess the land which the Lord God of your fathers **has given you**?”

The book of Joshua is not only about victory over the enemies after they crossed Jordan river, but it also about laziness which people of Israel had failed to destroy. After Joshua was old and advanced in years, the Lord said to him: “You are old, advanced in years, and there remains **very much land** yet to be possessed *Jos.13:1*. And then in chapter 18 we can read how Joshua rebuked people of Israel because they neglected to go and possess the land. It took **40 years** for Israel to walk from Egypt to Canaan, and it took about 400 years from Canaan to conquer Zion, which is the last city to be conquered, and it happened in the days of King David, so that it is called **the City of David** *2Sam.5:7*.

So, what is the real problem of that laziness that believers must be aware and then overcome it?

#1 Doubtiness

Jos.17:16 The children of Joseph said, "The mountain country is not enough for us; and all the Canaanites who dwell in the land of the valley have **chariots of iron**, both those who are of Beth Shean and its towns and those who are of the Valley of Jezreel."



The children of Joseph did not want to advance and possess the land because they doubted if they would be able to defeat the enemies that have **chariots of iron** or not. Back to those days, chariots of iron was armoured fighting vehicle, and it means full power and full equipment, maybe just like having super modern tank in this days that can not be defeated with anything. They just gave up with the condition and then did nothing!

Believers may also see the enemy just like 'the chariot iron' and assumed that there is no way to defeat them. Sometimes believers may already imagine everything, with their own wisdom, their own experience, and their own strength, and then concludes with **white flag** to surrender.



Do NOT Limit God

Psalm 78:41-42 Yes, again and again they tempted God, and **limited the Holy One of Israel**. They did not remember His power: The day when He redeemed them from the enemy.

limited: restricted in size, amount, or extent; few, small, or short



Doubtiness will make God sad, it hurts God. Do not put limit to our God who is **unlimited**! When believers assumed that our enemies is stronger because they have chariots of iron, actually they are underestimating God who have **the chariots of fire** 2Ki.6:16-17!

Maz.78:41 Berulang kali mereka mencobai Allah, **menyakiti** hati Yang Kudus dari Israel.

How to Kill Doubtiness

Jos.17:17-18 And Joshua spoke to the house of Joseph—to Ephraim and Manasseh—saying, “You *are* **a great people** and have **great power**; you shall not have *only* one lot, but the mountain country shall be yours. Although it *is* wooded, you shall cut it down, and its farthest extent shall be yours; for **you shall drive out the Canaanites**, though they have iron chariots *and* are strong.”



Joshua encouraged the people of Israel with the words of encouragement. When the doubt start to rise, let us kill it with **the sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God *Eph.6:17*!

*Let me hear Your words, above all other voices, above all the distractions in this world
For Your words bring life, and Your voice speaks promises, Lord, Your love
offers more, than anything else in this world*

#2 Too much reasoning

Judges 5:15-16 And the princes of Issachar *were* with Deborah; As Issachar, so *was* Barak sent into the valley under his command; Among the divisions of Reuben *there were great resolves of heart*. Why did you sit among the sheepfolds, to hear the pipings for the flocks? The divisions of Reuben have **great searchings of heart**.



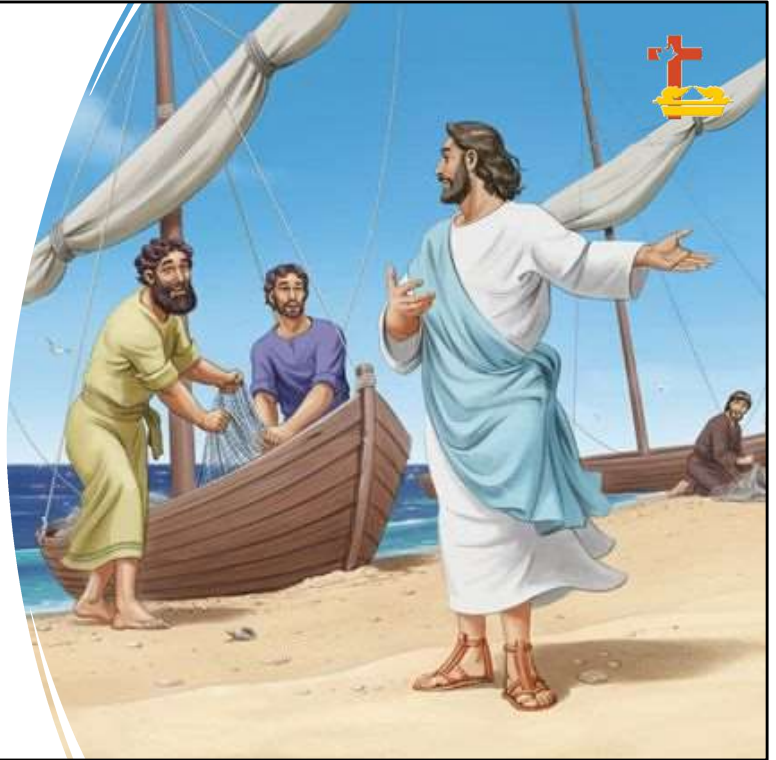
While Deborah and Barak were doing a great war, there were some peoples who just remain in their seat and did nothing! The people of Reuben went no where because they just had too much consideration to take their first step! Indeed we have a good and large brain to analyse everything, but above it all, as believers, **we must put our faith in God** more than our knowledge of analysis. Otherwise, we will suffer paralysis by analysis!

Wikipedia: Analysis paralysis (or paralysis by analysis) describes an individual or group process when overanalyzing or overthinking a situation can cause forward motion or decision-making to become "paralyzed", meaning that no solution or course of action is decided upon. A situation may be deemed as too complicated and a decision is never made, due to the fear that a potentially larger problem may arise. A person may desire a perfect solution, but may fear making a decision that could result in error, while on the way to a better solution. Equally, a person may hold that a superior solution is a short step away, and stall in its endless pursuit, with no concept of diminishing returns. On the opposite end of the time spectrum is the phrase **extinct by instinct**, which is making a fatal decision based on hasty judgment or a gut reaction.

Just Do It with Jesus!

Matthew 8:20-22 And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has *nowhere* to lay His head."

Then another of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead."



As long as Jesus is with us, please do not hold back ourselves and not to go with Him. Even in the midst of uncertainty, we can always put our faith in Jesus and then do it together with Jesus!


The disciples who had so much reasoning then decided to go home and bury his father. Actually, his father was still alive because it was impossible for someone in those days to go anywhere when someone at his house passed away (compare to Martha and Mary when Lazarus was passed away *Jn.11:18-33*).

The story then continued when Jesus and the disciples got into boat and a great wind arose on the sea so that the boat was covered with the waves and Jesus was asleep *Mat.8:23-24*!

Actually, there are tons of things to be analysed when we follow Jesus, but Paul wrote: "For we walk by faith, not by sight *2Cor.5:7*." We don't want either paralysis by analysis nor extinct by instinct, instead, we want to walk **by faith**.

#3 Lack of Power


John 21:3 Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We are going with you also." They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they **caught nothing**.





**Cancelling the legacy,
back to the old life**

Somehow, Simon and the other disciples also do nothing when Jesus was no longer with them. Even though Jesus already showed Himself to them twice and gave the instruction to send them as the Father had sent Jesus *Jn.20:21*, somehow they lacked of power to do that and they just went back to their old life, going fishing, and they **caught nothing**!

Laziness may occur because of lack of power. **Malaise**, also known as fatigue, is feeling uncomfortable, ill or **lack of energy** but you cannot explain the cause.

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TSETSE FLY

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Additional Info

Tsetse fly, (genus *Glossina*), also spelled **tse-tse**, also called **tik-tik fly**, any of about two to three dozen species of bloodsucking flies in the [housefly](#) family, Muscidae (order Diptera), that occur only in Africa and transmit [sleeping sickness](#) (African trypanosomiasis) in humans and a similar [disease](#) called [nagana](#) in domestic animals. Tsetse flies are distinguished in part by a forward-projecting piercing proboscis on the head that is capable of puncturing skin. They readily feed on the [blood](#) of humans, domestic animals, and wild game.



Illust. Sleeping sickness caused by disease.

Power to Run

Acts 1:7-8 And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.

But you shall receive **power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be **witnesses** to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."



Holy Spirit **CHANGES** everything. It is the power behind the acts of the disciples (Book of Acts). It is the power that **CHANGE** Peter and his friends. It is the power that made them keep working. It is the power that made them unstoppable. It is the power that made them brave. It is the power that opened their mouth to speak about Jesus. And it is the power that **transformed** all the disciples to become **witnesses**.

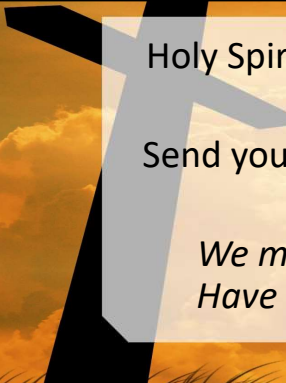
Even though we live in uncertainty, believers must not be lazy. Our part is only doing His commandments with the fire of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 12:11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord (NKJV)

Romans 12:11 Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord (KJV)

Roma 12:11 Janganlah hendaknya kerajinanmu kendor, biarlah rohmu menyala-nyala dan layanilah Tuhan (ITB)

Becoming witness is about following Jesus with our whole heart (Greek: martus).



Holy Spirit, You are welcome, come and move upon this place
We desire an encounter once again

Send your fire, release your power, so we'll never be the same
We desire an encounter once again

*We make way, we make room, Lord let your spirit move
Have your way in this place, Lord we have come for you*

