

Priorities of Faith

DAY 2 — THE DANGER OF BEING BUSY FOR GOD

“The apostles returned to Jesus. They told him all they had done and taught. But many people were coming and going. So they did not even have a chance to eat. Then Jesus said to his apostles, ‘Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place. You need to get some rest.’ So they went away by themselves in a boat to a quiet place.” (Mark 6:30–32)

Busyness in Work for God

People think being busy is important in our world. The world and the pressure to buy things make us believe that the more busy we are, the more people respect us. Being busy is a sign that we work hard and want to do well and have success. But sadly, while we are busy *making a living* [working to earn money], we forget to *live* and enjoy life. More sad and dangerous is that many people who follow Christ think they must always be busy in their work for God. We are often busy for the best possible reasons. We know that time is short. We want to do the most for God that we can, so we try to always be busy. We want to be good at managing the time and talents God gives us. It feels good to be busy for God. Sometimes we are tempted to think that God will reward our busyness for Him, only to find that in our busyness for God, we have lost our connection with our Redeemer. We are doing good things out of habit, not in the power of the Holy Spirit. And the more busy we are, the more we believe we are doing what God wants. Being busy becomes our new habit. We are so busy praising ourselves for being busy that we miss the important life moments. Being very busy can ruin our spiritual lives. Hurry is the enemy of any love relationship, especially our relationship with the living God of the Bible. Love needs unhurried time and attention.

The Duty [Responsibility] to Rest

It is no surprise that the God of the Bible tells us many times to not move, to stop, and see what He will do for His people (2 Chron. 20:17; Psalm 37:7). God wants His children to not hurry. God knows that when our minds are focused on the busyness of human activities that we quickly ignore Him. One of the most beautiful lessons about the danger of always being busy for God is found when our Lord Jesus, in His own ministry, decided to take time to rest. Ellen White beautifully writes about this important part of His ministry with His disciples: “Jesus and His disciples had been giving their all in working for the people, and this made their bodies and minds very tired. It was their duty [responsibility] to rest” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 360).

Being too busy can ruin our spiritual life and ability to succeed. Hurry can destroy of our love for God. Instead of adding more things on our schedule, let’s decide to do less and make time for more important, quiet spiritual time with our Creator and Savior.

Let’s pray together.

Prayer Time (30–45 Minutes)

All prayer groups have different ways of praying together. We want you to spend the next 30-45 minutes praying together, however the Holy Spirit leads you. Short informal prayers (1-3 sentences) are good. This way, more people can pray many times. Below are some examples of praying with Bible verses based on the theme. You may also pray through other Bible verses and include other topics in your prayer time. See the Leader's Guide and World Church Prayer Requests for other prayer ideas.

Praying God's Word — Mark 6:30–32

"The apostles returned to Jesus. They told him all they had done and taught. But many people were coming and going. So they did not even have a chance to eat. Then Jesus said to his apostles, 'Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place. You need to get some rest.' So they went away by themselves in a boat to a quiet place."

"Come Away"

Father God, we have been so busy doing Your work that we have forgotten it is Your work. Thank You for reminding us of our need to come with You, to take a break, and to take a breath. Thank You that we are not machines, but human beings. Forgive us when we have made our busyness our focus or when we have built our worth on how much we do for You. Please change our busyness into faithfulness. Amen.

"To a Quiet Place"

God, we have made our lives full with too much noise, too many things, and too many distractions. Whether we use our time working for the church or doing other things, we know we need to take a break and spend time thinking and resting away from the busyness of life. Please give us the grace needed to make daily time alone with You to breathe [relax] and focus on what is truly important. Amen.

"Rest a While"

Loving Jesus, when You were on Earth, You understood that people need rest. Thank You for showing us the balanced life we should live. Teach us what good rest looks like and how we can rest regularly to renew our energy and focus again on what is truly important. Amen.

More Prayer Suggestions

Thanks and Praise: Give thanks for specific blessings and praise God for His goodness.

Confession: Take a few minutes for private confession and thank God for His forgiveness.

Guidance: Ask God to give wisdom for today's challenges and decisions.

Our Church: Pray for local and world church needs (see separate sheet with requests).

Local Requests: Pray for needs of church members, family, and neighbors.

Listen and Respond: Take time to listen for God's voice and respond in praise or song.

Song Suggestions

SDA Hymnal: In the Garden (#487); Near to the Heart of God (#495); He Hideth My Soul (#520)

Other Songs: I Cast All My Cares Upon You; You Are My Hiding Place; All in All