

Proverbs 13:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.

Analysis

The soul of the sluggard desires and has nothing, but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat. The slothful person wants without working; the diligent worker receives abundance. Desire without effort produces nothing; desire with diligence produces plenty. This verse refutes entitlement mentality, insisting that outcomes require effort. Wishing doesn't create reality; labor does. Diligence is rewarded; sloth is punished by want.

Historical Context

Agricultural society made the principle self-evident - crops required planting, tending, and harvest. Wanting harvest without labor was delusional. The principle extends to all vocations.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What do you desire that you're unwilling to work diligently to obtain?
2. How does your work ethic reflect faith that God blesses faithful labor?

Interlinear Text

מְתַאֲן ה	אֵין יְאֵן	עַצְל	עַצְפָּש	עַצְפָּש	עַצְפָּש
desireth	H369	The soul	of the sluggard	The soul	of the diligent
H183	H5315	H6102	H5315	H2742	

תַּדְשֵׁן:

shall be made fat

H1878

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 12:24 (Parallel theme): The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute.

Proverbs 12:11 (Parallel theme): He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with bread: but he that followeth vain persons is void of understanding.

Proverbs 10:4 (Parallel theme): He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.

Proverbs 11:25 (Creation): The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.

Hebrews 6:11 (Parallel theme): And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:

Proverbs 28:25 (Creation): He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat.

John 6:27 (Parallel theme): Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

Proverbs 8:34 (Parallel theme): Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors.

Isaiah 58:11 (Parallel theme): And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.

Proverbs 26:13 (Parallel theme): The slothful man saith, There is a lion in the way; a lion is in the streets.

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