

Proverbs 26:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As the door turneth upon his hinges, so doth the slothful upon his bed.

Analysis

As a door turns on its hinges, so does the lazy person in bed. The Hebrew 'tsir' (hinge) creates imagery of circular non-progress. Door swings on hinges, moving without going anywhere. Lazy person rolls in bed without rising. Activity without productivity, motion without progress. This mocks slothful busy-ness - appearing active while accomplishing nothing. Wisdom requires productive effort, not mere activity.

Historical Context

Ancient doors with hinges allowed opening/closing but door itself went nowhere. Modern equivalent might be 'busy-work' - appearing productive without accomplishing anything meaningful. Ecclesiastes 10:15 says: 'The labour of the foolish wearieh every one of them, because he knoweth not how to go to the city.' Foolish people expend energy without achieving purposes. Wisdom works smart, not just hard.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What 'door-hinge' activities fill your time without producing meaningful results?
2. How can you distinguish productive work from mere busy-ness?
3. What changes would make your efforts purposeful rather than circular and unproductive?

Interlinear Text

עַל צַדְקָה וְבַּדָּלָת עַל תְּסִבְבָּת

As the door turneth upon his hinges so doth the slothful

H1817

H5437

H5921

H6735

H6102

עַל

צַדְקָה

וְבַּדָּלָת

צַדְקָה הַ

מִתְּסִבְבָּת:

upon his bed

H4296

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 6:12 (Parallel theme): That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

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