

STRESSLESS TOIL

By

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Scripture quotations are from the New International Version of the Bible

Take note that the name satan and related names are not capitalized. We choose not to acknowledge him, even to the point of violating grammatical rules

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Introduction

The very first pursuit of a man has become how to make a living and enjoy the good things of life. An average man is burdened with the thought of making and gathering wealth and enjoying his hard-earned labor, and to this end, he has not sinned or committed any crime. Paul taught us in 2 Thessalonian 3:10 that "If a man will not work, he shall not eat."

But then there are important things to note as we pursue the desire to make and gather wealth. In order to avoid a fruitless struggle in the pursuit of wealth, and also seek wealth in a manner that pleases the Lord, it has become necessary to search out the mind of God concerning this issue of wealth pursuit.

Just as it is the nature of God, I discovered as I searched through the Bible, that making and enjoying wealth need not be a struggle at all. Based on the word of God, I discovered that adequate provision of every good thing has been laid in store for those who truly belong to God. No wonder the Lord instructs that 'we seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all other things shall be added unto us.'

Now I have found a better and more assuring means of having and enjoying the good things of life. It does not come with struggles and it is not a hard toil. It does not lead to hell, but it is the promise of God fulfilled in the life of the man who dares to seek Him honestly. It is not a short-cut approach to making wealth, but a lasting approach to enjoying the fullness of God on the land of the living. Please come and make some discoveries with me into a life of abundance.

Chapter 1: The Design at the Beginning

Genesis 1:28-30

²⁸God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and every living creature that moves on the ground.”

²⁹Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. ³⁰And to all the beast of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground—everything that has breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.

Genesis 3:17-19

¹⁷To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat of it,’

“Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life.

¹⁸It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.

It is common knowledge that man has to struggle hard to make a living. There is so much anxiety in man and so much strive in the life of a man just for the reason of making a living. The economic state all over the world is such that the very first priority of man is to be able to earn income and make a living. The common language is that “a man who does not work should not eat.” There is also the problem of a man having the will and ability to work but there is no job to do.

I really cannot blame a man who is very anxious about earning a living, judging from the enormity of the responsibility at hand and lots of dreams to realize. There is a need for growth and development, the need to meet up with the ever-changing trend in the society and the dynamism of the world at large. Indeed, the world is not static and so there is the need for growth.

Poverty has been a tool in the hands of the devil with which he has driven many people to their early graves. The fear of poverty alone has driven the man into doing unthinkable things; and in

our present society, to be jobless is a stigma a lot of people do not know how to handle. The fear of losing one's job is another issue that birth fear in the heart of man.

Now from my knowledge of the love of God, I know that His will for us is not of evil but good, to give us hope and bring us to an expected end. So, my personal conclusion of this is that it is not the will of God for the man to struggle so hard to make a living. If we know and accept that the will of God for us is not of evil but good, then we need to start from the beginning in trying to understand the provisions the Lord has made for the man He created and how to tap into that God-given provision and live above poverty.

If we understand clearly the provisions of God at the beginning of time in Genesis 1:28-30 we will notice that it is not in the design of God at the beginning that man should strive so hard in order to be able to eat and have the good things of life. Poverty as the case is, was not in the design of God at the beginning.

In the beginning, God had taken care of every detail of the well-being of the man He was creating even before man was created. He had planted the garden, provided the animals, and even the rivers that will water the garden were all provided for before man was created. The issue of toiling before feeding was not in the master plan. So, this goes to tell us a lot about the method and manner in which God cares for those who are His.

The fall of man as a result of the sin of Adam and Eve introduced the issue of painful toil into the scheme of things to serve as a punishment for the sin that was committed. But as we have learned in Genesis 1:28-30, this was not in the original design of God for man. Now, we as God's children need to bear in mind that God's design for us at the beginning has not changed as long as we have accepted the atonement sacrifice which the Lord has presented for us in Jesus Christ. Romans 3:25 says, God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished.

From this passage, we are assured that God has adequately made provisions for us who are operating within the perfect finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ through faith in His blood. Our sins are forgiven and the design of God's provisions for us at the beginning has been restored.

Genesis 9:1-3

Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth. ²The fear and dread of you will fall upon all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air, upon every creature that moves along the ground, and upon all the fish of the sea; they are given into your hands. ³Everything that lives and moves will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything.

Just before we proceed in this study, we need to take a look at the covenant God made with Noah. When we consider the story of how God destroyed the world with a flood in Genesis 6 & 7; in those chapters when God was preparing to carry out the destruction of the earth He found one righteous man on the face of the earth by the name Noah through whom God would repopulate the earth.

From God's pronouncement on Noah and his household after the flood, we will see that there are similarities between God's blessing after the flood and that which He pronounced on Adam and Eve at the very beginning. This tells us that God was bringing about a new and fresh start, and a reestablished provision for the man He has created on the earth after the flood. And in this very fresh beginning, there is still no issue of hard toil.

Nothing was said about Noah and his children having to work so hard in order to feed. Instead God increased the provision He gave at the beginning to Adam and Eve from just the green plants and fruit-bearing trees as food, to include the birds of the air, fishes in the sea, beasts on the ground and He now said everything that lives and moves has been given to man as food as He was making a fresh start with Noah and his family and the entire human race.

If all this are already put in place by God, this now leaves me with a question in my heart; why would a child of God have to go through painful toil in order to eat? It was not in the design of God at the beginning for God's people to go through hard toil in order to eat, and even though there was the fall of man as a result of the sin committed by Adam and Eve, there is now the redemption from sin made available in Blood of Jesus shed as an atonement for our sins. And also, the covenant of God with Noah clearly reveals that hard toil is not what the Lord desires for His children.

So, from what the Lord is revealing to us from His word we as God's children are not in any way meant to go through hard toil to feed. Although this does not mean we are not to toil at all, but it is not in the plan of God for our lives to go through hard and painful toil as pronounced in Genesis 3:17

If you are a child of God as a result of your receiving and believing in the Lord Jesus as your Lord and Savior, living no longer by the dictates of the flesh but by the Spirit of God which dwells richly in you, then you have no reason at all to experience hard toil in order to feed. For you, the original design of God's plan for your life has been restored by the atonement sacrifice offered in the Blood of Jesus. You are to enjoy the full benefit of God's original plan for mankind. And even though this might sound unimaginable, but in truth, all things have been made available for you.

Deuteronomy 15:4-6

⁴However, there should be no poor among you, for in the Land your God is giving you to possess as your inheritance, he will richly bless you, ⁵if only you fully obey the Lord your God and are careful to follow all the commands I am giving you today. ⁶For the Lord your God will bless you as he has promised, and you will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. You will rule over many nations, but none will rule over you.

Here is God speaking through Moses to His chosen ones which include you and me who have been redeemed by the Blood of Jesus. He says there should be no poor amongst God's chosen ones, although these words were originally spoken to the children of Israel who were the descendants of Abraham, but read what Paul says in Galatians 3:26-29, ²⁶“You are sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, ²⁷for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸There is neither Jew nor Greek, slaves nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.” So, for as long as you have clothed yourself in Christ Jesus, the word of God spoken in Deuteronomy 15:4-6 also refers to you.

If you are a seed of Abraham by reason of your baptism into Jesus Christ, you are not meant to be poor. You are destined to be a lender to many nations, and you should not borrow from any. This is your kingdom right, it is an inheritance from God to His children; it is a promise that must not fail concerning your life. You are to enjoy the blessings of God that bring wealth and adds no trouble to it. A stress-free toil should be your portion.

If for any reason as a child of God, you are still struggling to feed, and you are suffering under the burden a hard toil then you are not maximizing your right as a child of God. You have allowed lack of knowledge to rob you of your rightful inheritance as a child of God; you need to explore God's word and stand upon it forcefully and you will be surprised at the turn around you will experience in your finances.

And for the man God created who is still leaving in sin, let the struggles of your life come to an end. Those provisions the Lord has made are also available to you only if you can run to Jesus and let Him wash away your sins, give you a new life and open up to you the resources of heaven. If you don't belong to God, you cannot claim the provisions of God. Whatever the life of sin has given to you stays only for a very short while. It is the Lord that gives you provisions of things that will enrich your life on earth and secure a place for you at the right-hand side of God in heaven and it adds no trouble to it.

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