

Top 10 Excuses for Falling Asleep at Work

- 10) *They told me at the blood bank that this might happen.*
- 9) *This is one of the seven habits of highly effective people.*
- 8) *I was testing the keyboard for drool resistance.*
- 7) *Why did you interrupt me? I had almost figured out the solution to our biggest problem!*
- 6) *The coffee machine is broken...*
- 5) *Someone must have put decaf in the wrong pot.*
- 4) *Boy, that cold medicine I took last night just won't wear off!*
- 3) *Whew! Guess I left the top off of the Liquid Paper.*
- 2) *I wasn't sleeping. I was trying to pick up a contact lens without my hands.*
- 1) *"Amen"*

Everyone seems to make fun of work at times, but there is another side to it. This aspect can also be fun, and certainly fulfilling. It happens when we work God's way. Let's spend this week discovering what that means.

Monday – The God Who Never Quits

"For God seems, as it were, to sleep, or absent Himself, while He is long-suffering, and doth not immediately punish the sins of men." Theophylact, 11th c. Bulgarian Archbishop

1. Please read John 5:15-19. What does Jesus say about his relationship with God the Father?
2. Now look at Psalm 121:1-8. What image do you receive of God from this passage?
3. What do you learn of God's protection in verses 4 and 8 of Psalm 121? What assurance do you find there?

Making it Personal: Looking at your own relationship with God, do you behave as if he is always wakeful and watchful over you? How can you change your ways to coincide with this reality?

Tuesday – Marvelous Work

"Your works are wonderful, I know that full well." Psalm 139:14.

1. Please read Proverbs 8:27-31. What image do you receive of God from this passage?
2. Proverbs 8:27-31 is Old Testament prophecy. In order to discover who this prophecy is about, please read John 1:3 and John 5:19.

Text Insight: Prophecy is not just telling what will happen in the future, but also truth about who God is and what he has done in the past.

3. Now look at Hebrews 1:3 in connection with John 5:17 and Philippians 1:6. What does God continue to do "to this very day" and "on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus?" What does this tell you about God's nature?

Making it Personal: Thank God that he continues to work out your salvation, sustaining it today and forever.

Wednesday – Why Work?

"Character is what you are in the dark." D.L. Moody, 19th c. American preacher

1. Please read 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15. What does this tell you about idleness and work?
2. According to 1 Timothy 5:8 and Ephesians 4:28, what are some reasons for working hard? In what practical ways can you carry out this instruction?
3. What is the main point of life - whether at work or play, what mindset should we adopt (see 1 Corinthians 10:31)? Keeping in mind the passages in questions 1 and 2, how can you glorify God in your work?

Making it Personal: Pray, asking God to use you in glorifying him in all you do, whether work or play.

Thursday – How to Work

"I have seen many men work without praying, though I have never seen any good come out of it; but I have never seen a man pray without working." Hudson Taylor, 19th c. missionary

1. Please read Ephesians 6:5-9. What insights do you gain about your responsibility in the workplace?

Text Insight: Unlike today, at the time that Paul wrote his letter to the Ephesians, there were relatively few jobs that involved hiring. In Paul's time, work was carried out primarily by slaves.

2. According to Colossians 4:5-6, what should be your attitude when working around non-Christians?
3. According to Luke 17:10, what should be your attitude toward God in carrying out your work?

Prayer Focus: Pray, asking God to use all believers to honor him in how they carry out the jobs he has put them in.

Friday – Rest

"The branch of the vine does not worry, and toil, and rush here to seek for sunshine, and there to find rain. No; it rests in union and communion with the vine; and at the right time, and in the right way, is the right fruit found on it. Let us so abide in the Lord Jesus." Hudson Taylor

1. Please read Matthew 11:28-30. Do you think Jesus is talking about physical or spiritual rest, or both? Why?
2. What do Genesis 2:3 and Matthew 8:23-27 tell you about the nature of God?
3. Now compare Genesis 2:3, Psalm 121:4, Proverbs 8:29 and Matthew 8:27. How can you reconcile these different descriptions of God?

Digging Deeper: Read Job 38:1-41 for a description of God's abilities and our own shortcomings when it comes to getting work done.

For the Weekend: Read Genesis 1:1-2:3 along with Ephesians 2:10. What does this tell you about who you are and what you are made to do?