

WHEN SHOULD I WORK HARD?

By: Fountain Hendricks

Ephesians 5:15

You may be thinking that this is an odd question to ask. However, it is necessary. If you listen to the media outlets of the world they will encourage you to work hard for the duration of your life.

It does not matter how old you are, the world will promote and encourage you to work hard in whatever you are doing. This philosophy is totally **AGAINST** the Kingdom's teaching. God told you to work hard during a particular **SEASON** of your life.

That season is during the years of your **YOUTH**.

Lamentations 3:27 says, "*It is good for someone to work hard while he is young.*" Many people define being young subjectively. It's a matter of perspective for most people.

However, in the Kingdom it is considered differently. Youth implies that you are full of **STRENGTH** and **ENERGY**. When a person's strength and energy begins to disintegrate that is when they are getting old.

Psalm 71:9 says, "*Do not reject me when I am old; do not leave me when my strength is gone.*"

Proverbs 20:29 says, "*The young glory in their strength, and the old are honored for their gray hair.*"

The two scriptures above show that lacking strength (ability) are the **PRIMARY** indicators of getting older. It is hard to put a number around this. However, it is safe to say that when a person turns fifty years old they begin to lose strength in many areas of their life.

What you were once able to tolerate in your twenties you have no patience for in your fifties. If you were able to work two jobs in your thirties that strength leaves you at

fifty. If you were able to go above and beyond in your forties, you're looking to do just enough in your fifties.

MANAGE THE YEARS

The Lord commands you to work hard while you're young because your strength **WILL DEplete**. Your energy **WILL DECREASE**. There is a special type of grace that is given to you while you are young. Unfortunately, many people do not realize this.

When you can stay up late and not feel tired you are under a special grace. When you can work multiple jobs and still feel energized you are under a special grace. When you can feel optimistic about life despite what is going on around you, you are under a special grace. When you can carry a heavy load and not feel the weight, you are under a special grace. This is God's gift to the youth.

IT'S NOT BENEFICIAL

The Lord said it is **GOOD** that you work hard when you are young. The word good in this context means “beneficial”. If you work hard when you are young it will help you. It will prosper you. It will make things easier for you. However, if you choose to mismanage your youth by being lazy and foolish you will position yourself to be hurt later in life.

This is a Kingdom law. If you obey it you will be blessed. If you disobey it you will have trouble. Another way to understand this scripture is to flip the context. In other words, it is **NOT GOOD** to work hard when you are old. Working hard when you are old will **HURT** you before it helps you.

When you work hard when you are old you lack the strength and energy to get things done. You will propel your body, mind and emotions to break down. People who do this go into bad health, mental illness and

depression. God's word does not lie and it will accomplish what it said.

When you are old (lacking strength) you need to **ADJUST** your effort. Do things that **ACCOMMODATE THE LEVEL** of strength and energy you currently have. If you make wise decisions and live wisely when you are young you can **AVOID** trouble when you are old.

Ephesians 5:15 says, "*So be very careful how you live. Do not live like those who are not wise, but live wisely.*"

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