

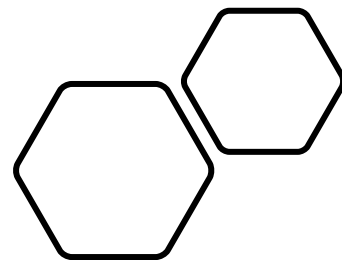






"What if we don't change at all ...
and something magical just happens?"

Sometimes,
the easiest way
to solve a problem is
to stop participating
in the problem.



PROBLEM A SITUATION...

- unwelcome
- harmful
- needing change

“Up a creek without a paddle.”

PROVERBS 12:11 He who works his land will have abundant food, but he who chases fantasies lacks judgment.

LAZINESS... Lack of
involvement and **responsibility**
for your life AND the impact
of your life on others.

Preventing a problem is just as important as
fixing one.

Proactive. Planning. Preparation.

Quick response to something that will
only get worse.

Finish your outdoor work and get your fields
ready. After that, build you house. *(24:27)*

Respond to a problem **immediately** and **vigorously**. Opportunity to “fix” = closing window.

A sluggard does not plow in season, so at harvest time he looks and finds nothing. (20:4)

Look at the ant, you sluggard... it **stores** its provisions in **summer**. (6:6-8)

In the crucial area of disciplining children, **LAZINESS** is often renamed **LOVE**. This is irresponsible and often leads to tragic consequences.

Discipline your son, for in that there is hope.
Do not be a willing party to his death. *(19:18)*

**“Better to have a hen
tomorrow than an egg today.”**

PROVERBS (21:17) He who loves
pleasure will become poor. **21:20** In the
house of the wise are stores of food and
oil, but a foolish man devours all he has.

LUST... The pursuit of **immediate gratification** and the unwillingness to apply discipline.

Money (example). The demand to have **everything** and have it now is foolish and dangerous.

- The wages of the righteous bring them life, but the income of the wicked bring them punishment. *(10:16)*
- Better a little with the fear of the Lord than great wealth with turmoil. *(15:16)*

Often “lust” is fed by peer pressure more than by personal desire. This is a snare of Satan targeting the fear of not being accepted by other people.

Fear of man will prove to be a snare.
Trust in the Lord will bring safety. *(29:25)*

“Loose lips sink ships.”

PROVERBS. (10:32) The lips
of the righteous know what is fitting,
but the mouth of the wicked only what
is perverse.

LIPS... careless, reckless, heedless words cause problems and bring regrets. This type of problem can be avoided easier than some.

Speak the truth. However, consider the affect your words will have and make every effort to communicate love and gentleness. This minimizes problems.

Reckless words pierce like a sword,
but the tongue of the wise brings
healing. *(12:18)*

A gentle answer turns away wrath,
but a harsh word stirs up anger.
(15:1)

Gossip can seem irresistible! This temptation will only be resisted by a commitment to God to do no harm to someone by harming their reputation.

He who covers over an offense promotes love,
but whoever repeats the matter separates friends.
(17:9)

The tongue has the power of life and death. *(18:21)*

Do not let unwholesome talk come out of your mouth, but only what is HELPFUL for building others up according to their needs, that it may BENEFIT those who listen. (*Ephesians 4:29*)