

## The Impossible Life

May 13th, 2012

### The Six Arenas of the Christian Man's Life

1. **God.** A Heaven-come-to-earth devotional life with his God (Biblical Study and Prayer)
2. **Wife.** A Fairy-tale intimate relationship with his wife
3. **Kids.** World-class investment into the lives of his children
4. **Friends/Family.** Kind, consistent, honorable and thoughtful remembrance and service unto his friends and extended family members
5. **Business.** Uncompromising Excellence and Diligence in his business dealings and financial investments
6. **Ministry.** Hudson Taylor-like givenness to the preaching of the Gospel and the practical rescue of the lost, the dying, the orphans, and the widows around him

### Pick Your 2.5 Arenas

For you must face the facts that it is impossible to do it all

## The E-Mail

*Eric,*

*Do you ever worry that you are not the perfect mother?*

## The Two Facts to Face

1. The Facts of Natural Law (the Impossible is simply impossible)

With men this is impossible . . .

**Matthew 19:26**

With men it is impossible . . .

**Mark 10:27**

2. The Facts of Heavenly Law (With God nothing is impossible)

With God nothing shall be impossible.

**Luke 1:37**

With God all things are possible.

**Matthew 19:26**

## Facing the Facts at the Red Sea

After all, Seas don't just part

### **The Facts of the Natural Law**

Now when the Egyptians had overtaken the Hebrews, they prepared to fight them, and by their multitude they drove them into a narrow place; for the number that pursued after them was six hundred chariots, with fifty thousand horsemen, and two hundred

thousand foot-men, all armed. They also seized on the passages by which they imagined the Hebrews might fly, shutting them up between inaccessible precipices and the sea . . . The Hebrews . . . if they should have thought of fighting . . . had no weapons; they expected a universal destruction, unless they delivered themselves up to the Egyptians. So they laid the blame on Moses, and forgot all the signs that had been wrought by God for the recovery of their freedom; and this so far, that their incredulity prompted them to throw stones at the prophet, while he encouraged them and promised them deliverance . . . But Moses, though the multitude looked fiercely at him, did not, however, give over the care of them, but despised all dangers, out of his trust in God . . . he said, “. . . it is no better than madness, at this time to despair of the providence of God.”

### **Flavius Josephus**

(Antiquities of the Jews, Book 2, Chapter 15, Para 3-4)

### **The Facts of Heavenly Law**

Thou art not ignorant, O Lord, that it is beyond human strength and human contrivance to avoid the difficulties we are now under; but it must be Thy work altogether to procure deliverance to this army, which has left Egypt at Thy appointment. We despair of any other assistance or contrivance, and have recourse only to that hope we have in thee; and if there be any method that can promise us an escape by thy providence, we look up to thee for it. And let it come quickly, and manifest thy power to us; and do thou raise up this people unto good courage and hope of deliverance, who are deeply sunk into a disconsolate state of mind. We are in a helpless place, but still it is a place that thou possesses; still the sea is thine, the mountains also that enclose us are thine; so that these mountains will open themselves if thou commands them, and the sea also, if thou commands it, will become dry land. Nay, we might escape by

a flight through the air, if thou should determine we should have that way of salvation.

**Flavius Josephus**

(Antiquities of the Jews, Book 2, Chapter 16, Para 1)

## Facing the Facts at Jericho

After all, walled cities don't just collapse

## Facing the Facts of Your Life

After all, men just can't pull off all six arenas of life well

## The Impossible Life

Bewildering Excellence in all Six Arenas

1. **God.** A Heaven-come-earth devotional life with his God (Biblical Study and Prayer)
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## And Yes, It IS Impossible with Men

We MUST live with untiring givenness, aggressively running the race without reprieve, carrying weights far too heavy for any mere human to carry - and we must rejoice and be marked by all the virtue of Heaven every moment of the entire journey.

## But, It IS Possible with God

And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.

**Mark 10:27**

## Built to Carry The Impossible Weights

- Proverbs 31 example
- Paul's example: 2 Corinthians 11:25-30
- Christ's example (Bearing the Impossible Burden)
- Hebrews Chapter 11 – the heroes of the faith (Hebrews 11:33-38)

## First, God Needs a Willing Vessel

Is there anyone who will simply believe?

## Next, He Must Build Within Them His Very Own Work Ethic

## God Works

And on the seventh day God ended **his work** which he had made;

and he rested on the seventh day from all **his work** which he had made.

**Genesis 2:2**

**His work** is perfect . . .

**Deuteronomy 32:4**

**His work** is honorable and glorious . . .

**Psalm 111:3**

God has an *Ethic* by which He works

God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: **hath he said, and shall he not do it?** or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

**Numbers 23:19**

The 11 Ethics of God's Work

1. If He starts a work, He finishes it.
2. He does His work with Joy.
3. He is compliant and submissive to His Boss, accepting the most difficult tasks without question.
4. He stays alert, focused, and on task - sober-minded always. He does not grow tired or weary.
5. He Controls His Tongue.

6. He seeks another's wealth. He works not for applause, notoriety, and/or promotion. He treats others as more important than Himself.
7. He ceases labor and rests only at the appropriate time.
8. He does His work right. He does everything with unparalleled excellence. He is the best in His field.
9. He is marked by perfect integrity - without spot or blemish.
10. He is persistent and will overcome every obstacle in order to complete the job.
11. He gives attention to detail, noticing the small things.

## Applying This Ethic to Our Daily Work

For This Very God Lives Within Us

And **whatsoever you do** in word or deed, **do all** in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him . . . And **whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord**, and not unto men

**Colossians 3:17, 23**

**In all thy ways** acknowledge him . . .

**Proverbs 3:6**

Whether therefore you eat, or drink, or **whatsoever you do**, do all to the glory of God.

**1 Corinthians 10:31**

# Welcome to the Endless Sprint

100% exertion 100% of every minute for 100% of the rest of your life

They that wait upon the Lord shall...**run and not grow weary**,  
walk and not faint.

**Isaiah 40:31**

And **let us not grow weary while doing good**, for in due season  
we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

**Galatians 6:9**

For which cause [*the glory of God*] **we faint not**; but though our  
outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 4:16**

## Introducing the Sluggard

*`atsel - ä·tsāl'*

Slothful, Sluggard, the one of justified sleep, the man who lives for sleep and repose, the man paranoid of hard work.

## The Lesson of the Sluggard

I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man  
void of understanding; And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns,  
and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof  
was broken down. Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked



upon it, and received instruction. Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travels; and thy want as an armed man.

**Proverbs 24:30-34**

## Eight Signs of the Sloth

### **1. He Pines for His Bedsheets**

How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?

**Proverbs 6:9**

As the door turns upon his hinges, so does the slothful upon his bed.

**Proverbs 26:14**

### **2. He Irks his Employers and thus struggles to keep a job**

As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to them that send him.

**Proverbs 10:26**

### **3. He Can't figure out why his life never works**

The soul of the sluggard desires, and has nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.

**Proverbs 13:4**

### **4. He is Mystified why his efforts are always blocked**

The way of the slothful man is as a hedge of thorns: but the way of the righteous is made plain.

**Proverbs 15:19**

**5. He Always Has a Reason for why he can't work hard today**

The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing.

**Proverbs 20:4**

The slothful man saith, There is a lion in the way, I shall be slain in the streets.

**Proverbs 26:13**

**6. The Slothful man is pathetic**

The slothful hides his hand in his bosom; it grieves him to bring it again to his mouth.

**Proverbs 26:15**

**7. The Slothful Man is Killed by His own Slothfulness**

The desire of the slothful kills him; for his hands refuse to labor.

**Proverbs 21:25**

**8. The Sluggard thinks himself more brilliant than those around him**

The sluggard is wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason.

**Proverbs 26:16**

# Introducing the Diligent

## *Charuwts* - Khä·rüts'

sharp, pointed, refined (as gold), diligent, Spiritually toned and ever-ready for exertion

He who has a slack hand becomes poor, But **the hand of the diligent makes rich** (Proverbs 10:4) . . . **The hand of the diligent will rule**, But the lazy man will be put to forced labor. (Proverbs 12:24) . . . The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing; But **the soul of the diligent shall be made rich** (Proverbs 13:4) . . . **The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty**, But those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty (Proverbs 21:5) . . . The slothful man roasts not that which he took in hunting: but **the substance of a diligent man is precious** [*prized*] (Proverbs 12:27) . . . See thou **a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings**; he shall not stand before unknown men (Proverbs 22:29).

## Diligence of Soul

Now let me burn out for God.

**Henry Martyn**

I'll die with my boots on!

**John "Praying" Hyde**

## The Sluggard of Soul

I went by the field of the [spiritually lazy], and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding [the significance of maintaining

diligence, ever-readiness, and sobriety in his soul]; And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down. Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction. Yet a little [spiritual] sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy [spiritual] poverty come as one that travels; and thy [spiritual ruin] as an armed man.

**Proverbs 24:30-34**

## The Labor of the Soul to Abide

If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

**John 15:5**

## The Solution to the Life in Shambles

When we get tired, when impossibilities stack up against our life, when the machinery of our life is breaking down . . .

- Increase the exertion of the soul toward God
- Pray more
- Increase time spent with the King

## Mary-Working

100% exertion, finding 100% satisfaction in Jesus, 100% confidence in His Word, and doing 100% of that which He commissions me to do, with 100% confidence that He will enable me to perform that which He commands me to perform.

## Jesus-Boating

100% exertion, finding 100% rest in the Father's direction, 100% confidence in the Father's outcome, knowing with 100% assurance that the winds and the waves bow to the Father's authority, and knowing with 100% certitude the position we have in the Father.

## The Heavenly Food

The Sustenance of the Impossible Life

In the mean while his disciples urged him, saying, Master, eat. But he said unto them, I have food to eat that you know not of.

**John 4:31-32**

## Strength and Energy

*I have strength and energy that you know not of.*

## Wisdom and Mental Resource

*I have wisdom and mental resource that you know not of.*

## Financial Provision and Supply

*I have financial provision and supply that you know not of.*

## The Six Arenas of the Christian Man's Life

Pick 6 of the following list and expect, by the Grace of God, to be excellent in each arena.

1. **God.** A Heaven-come-to-earth devotional life with his God (Biblical Study and Prayer)

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