



I. Series Review

Song of Solomon 2:15 (NKJV) – *Catch us the foxes, the little foxes that spoil the vines, for our vines have tender grapes*

Song of Solomon 2:15 (LSV) – *Seize for us the foxes, Little foxes – DESTROYERS of vineyards, even our sweet-smelling vineyards.*

Song of Solomon 2:15 (GNT) – *Catch the foxes, the little foxes, **before** they ruin our vineyard in bloom*

A. Little foxes – little things have the potential to destroy or hinder your harvest.

B. Spoil – to destroy – to corrupt – to ruin – or to withhold

C. Previous sessions

1. Little Fox of Wrong Thinking
2. Little Fox of Condemnation
3. Little Fox of Negative Emotions
4. Little Fox of Strife
5. Little Fox of Impatience
6. Little Fox of Complaining

II. The Little Fox of Slackness

A. Joshua 18:3 (KJV) – *And Joshua said unto the children of Israel, “How long are ye slack to go to possess the land, which the LORD God of your fathers hath given you?”*

Joshua 18:3 (Coverdale Bible of 1535) – *How long are you slow to go and conquer the land?*

Joshua 18:3 (CPDV) – *How long will you draw back in idleness and not enter to possess the land?*

Many modern translations say “Put off going”

B. Slack – Old Testament Hebrew definition

To sink down – to relax – to let drop – to withdraw – to refrain – to let go

1. **Zephaniah 3:16-17 (KJV)** – *¹⁶In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem, “Fear thou not: and to Zion, Let not thine hands be slack. ¹⁷The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing”*

2. **Zephaniah 3:16 (AMP)** – *do not let your hands fall limp*

3. **Although vs 17 declares the Lord’s salvation for us – we still must see to it that our hands do not become slack!**

C. 2 Peter 3:9 (NKJV) – *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

1. **2 Peter 3:9 (SLT)** – *The Lord puts not off the solemn promise as some deem slowness.*

2. **Other words: Slow – Delay – Negligent**

D. New Testament definition for Slackness

1. **To delay to do what needs to be done**

2. **To be slow about doing what must be done**

3. Metaphorically – a dull, inactive mind – slow to apprehend or believe

E. The Lord is not slack – we should not be slack.

The Lord is not slow to do what He needs to do.

We should not be slow to do what we need to be doing in regard to our faith journey.

III. Guarding against the little fox of Slackness

A. Faith is never passive

Passive – accepting or allowing what happens without active response or resistance.

B. Faith is active

1. The woman with the issue of blood acted on her faith.
2. Blind Bartimaeus continued to cry out (action) to Jesus.
3. The crowds who were healed came – (action) to Jesus against great struggles.
4. Jesus often commanded people to act out their faith.
 - a. Stretch out thy hand.
 - b. God who yourselves to the priest.
 - c. Go wash in the pool of Siloam.

C. Faith is a spiritual living force

1. Anything that is alive has movement and activity.
2. Anything that is dead is inactive/motionless

D. Many are deceived into believing they are in faith when they are not!

1. Faith is not SLACK – sitting idle while doing NOTHING and confessing, “God’s got this” or “I know its going to work out.”
2. Faith is not passively doing nothing while confessing, “I’m just waiting on God.”

Pastor’s Note: *When this attitude is present, slackness is at work – we are not being diligent to do what is necessary for faith to work. This type of slackness that takes on a spiritual appearance will certainly become a little fox that will hinder or destroy your harvest.*

- E. Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)** – *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

Hebrews 11:6 (AMP) – *But without faith it is impossible to [walk with God and] please Him, for whoever comes [near] to God must [necessarily] believe that God exists and that He rewards those who [earnestly and diligently] seek Him.*

1. Diligence

- a. careful and persistent work or effort
- b. Steady, earnest, and energetic effort
- c. Paying proper attention to a task

2. Faith requires diligence

- a. There are works associated with faith:
 - Hearing the word.
 - Speaking the word.
 - Meditating in the word.
 - Acting on the word.
- b. **Even when we are RESTING IN FAITH – there are diligent works required to remain in faith’s rest.**

Hebrews 4:10-11 (NKJV) – ¹⁰*For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his ¹¹Let us*

labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

Hebrews 4:11 (AMP) – *Let us make every effort to enter that rest*

Hebrews 4:11 (YLT) – *May we be diligent, then to enter into that rest.*

Many Old Translations – Geneva 1587 – Bishops Bible 1568
Tyndale 1526 – SAY *Let us Study to enter.*

Pastor's Note: Because faith is active and alive, we must always be feeding our faith – nurturing our faith – developing our faith – to keep it working as a living, active, force against our circumstances. NO PLACE FOR SLACKNESS

3. **Proverbs 24:10 (AMP)** – *If you are slack (careless) in the day of distress, Your strength is limited.*

Proverbs 24:10 (HCSB) – *If you do nothing in a difficult time, your strength is limited*

4. **Romans 12:11 (NAB)** – *Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord*

5. **Ecclesiastes 11:6 (BST) – Brenton Septuagint Translation** – *In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening **let not thine hand be slack:** for thou knowest not what sort shall prosper, whether this or that, or whether both shall be good alike.*

Ecclesiastes 11:6 (CEV) – *Plant your seeds early in the morning **and keep working** in the field until dark. Who knows? Your work might pay off, and your seeds might produce*