



Ants **Sunday 09 January 2011**

About Ants:

- There are over 12,000 known species of ants.
- Ants can lift 20 times their own body weight.
- An ant brain has about 250 000 brain cells. A human brain has 10,000 million so a colony of 40,000 ants has collectively the same size brain as a human.
- The abdomen of the ant contains two stomachs. One stomach holds the food for itself and second stomach is for food to be shared with other ants.
- Ants are clean and tidy insects.

Colonies or societies

Ants form colonies that range in size from a few dozen predatory individuals living in small natural cavities to highly organised colonies which may occupy large territories and consist of millions of individuals. These larger colonies consist mostly of sterile wingless females forming castes of "workers", "soldiers", or other specialised groups. Nearly all ant colonies also have some fertile males called "drones" and one or more fertile females called "queens". The colonies are sometimes described as superorganisms because the ants appear to operate as a unified entity, collectively working together to support the colony.

Ant societies have division of labour, communication between individuals, and an ability to solve complex problems.

Each ant colony has at least one or more queens.
The job of the queen is to lay eggs which the worker ants look after.

Worker Ants

Worker ants are sterile, they look for food, look after the young, and defend the nest from unwanted visitors.

Some worker ants are given the job of taking the rubbish from the nest and putting it outside in a special rubbish dump!

The worker ants keep the eggs and larvae in different groups according to ages.

At night the worker ants move the eggs and larvae deep into the nest to protect them from the cold. During the daytime, the worker ants move the eggs and larvae of the colony to the top of the nest so that they can be warmer. If a worker ant has found a good source for food, it leaves a trail of scent so that the other ants in the colony can find the food.

Life Expectancy

Ant colonies can be long-lived. The queens can live for up to 30 years, and workers live from 1 to 3 years. Males, however, are more transitory, and survive only a few weeks (45-60 days). Ant queens are estimated to live 100 times longer than solitary insects of a similar size.

Ants are active all year long in the tropics but, in cooler regions, survive the winter in a state of dormancy or inactivity. The forms of inactivity are varied and some temperate species have larvae going into the inactive state, while in others, the adults alone pass the winter in a state of reduced activity.



Source:

<http://www.lingolex.com/ants.htm>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ant>

Proverbs 6:6-11

6 Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise,

7 Which, having no captain, Overseer or ruler,

8 Provides her supplies in the summer, And gathers her food in the harvest.

9 How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep?

10 A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to sleep—

11 So shall your poverty come on you like a prowler, And your need like an armed man.

MESSAGE BIBLE

6 You lazy fool, look at an ant. Watch it closely; let it teach you a thing or two.

7 Nobody has to tell it what to do.

8 All summer it stores up food; at harvest it stockpiles provisions.

9 So how long are you going to laze around doing nothing? How long before you get out of bed?

10 A nap here, a nap there, a day off here, a day off there, sit back, take it easy--do you know what comes next?

11 Just this: You can look forward to a dirt-poor life, poverty your permanent houseguest!

New Year Resolutions

At the beginning of a new year, we make resolutions for change, growth, personal development, progress in several areas of life, etc.

Talk about some common goals/resolutions we generally make – read God’s Word faithfully, pray more, exercise, etc. etc.

God’s wisdom and greatness is embedded in His creation. There are some lessons we can learn from Ants – which God points us to.

ANTS ARE MOTIVATED

‘nobody has to tell it what to do’

One of the biggest challenges we face as we pursue dreams and goals is to stay motivated.

The power or influence of a good teacher/mentor/coach/tutor cannot be questioned.

They help us avoid costly mistakes.

They impart wisdom to us wisdom which could take a lifetime to learn.

One right person influencing your life correctly, can unleash your greatness.

While it is good to have mentors, coaches, tutors, trainers, advisors, counselors, etc to motivate us – we must understand that “all lasting change comes from within”.

We must all come to a place where we are motivated from within....where external motivation imparted to you by teachers/mentors becomes an innate inspiration, motivation that now becomes part of you.

ANTS HAVE FORESIGHT (ARE FORWARD LOOKING)

Proverbs 6:

8 Provides her supplies in the summer, And gathers her food in the harvest.



Proverbs 22:3 A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, But the simple pass on and are punished.

Issues about planning

Matthew 6:34

Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

James 4:13-16

13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit";

14 whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

15 Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that."

16 But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

We are not to worry about tomorrow. Planning is preparing for tomorrow. We can plan without worrying.

While we make our plans we know that it God who empowers us to be and do things. Hence our dependence is always on Him.

Proverbs 4:26 Ponder the path of your feet, And let all your ways be established.

ANTS ARE DILIGENT (hardworking)

We must be diligent. Work hard.

Proverbs 10:4 He who has a slack hand becomes poor, But the hand of the diligent makes rich.

Proverbs 13:4 The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing; But the soul of the diligent shall be made rich.

Patience - Remember God is not in a hurry. Patience is a weapon that helps you outlast adversity and that demoralizes the enemy.

Be strong - Life is a series of battles. Don't quit. Diligently keep pressing forward.

Proverbs 24:10

If you faint in the day of adversity, Your strength is small.

Luke 9:62

But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

Here are some practical insights/action items that will help us follow the example of the ants in staying motivated, exercising foresight and being diligent.

Several ideas shared below are gleaned from the teachings of Dr. Mike Murdock.

1, Ritualize practice – maintain a daily rhythm

Nothing will ever dominate your life, unless it happens daily or atleast regularly.

Success is an hourly event.

Your daily habits are carving out an irreversible future for you. Are your daily habits carrying you toward the future you really want? Establish a daily routine that will create the future you desire.



Daniel 6:10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.

<<personal example>>

2, See the big picture

You will never leave where you are, until you decide where you would like to be.
Intolerance of your present creates momentum toward your future.
Pictures are the seeds for ideas, energy and change.

<<personal example>>

Isaiah 43:18,19

**18 "Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old.
19 Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness And rivers in the desert.**

Philippians 3:13,14

**13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,
14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.**

3, Pursue something that excites you

Have dreams and goals that excite you and fill you with enthusiasm. This will keep you motivated.
Make it pleasurable - Enjoy the moment where you are doing a particular task, since it took a lifetime to get here.
Enjoying the experience will want you to come back to it more often.
Excitement energizes you to pursue and complete dreams and goals.
When starting out on a new discipline, the early stages will be painful – but remember, pain passes.
Joy is proof that you are pursuing something God wants you to enjoy.

Ecclesiastes 3:13

and also that every man should eat and drink and enjoy the good of all his labor—it is the gift of God.

4, Write your goals

Writing down your dreams and goal makes you more decisive.
Helps you refresh your dreams and goals.
Enables you to link tasks to timelines.

Habakkuk 2:2

Then the LORD answered me and said: "Write the vision And make it plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it.

<<personal example>>

5, Make order a habit

Order is the accurate arrangement of things, people, and events.
When you increase order you increase productivity.
Increased productivity keeps you motivated.

There is order in all of God's creation. Things don't happen at random.



6, Take renewal breaks

While a daily routine is good, sometimes this can become monotonous. So in order to break monotony – take a renewal break.

God set this for us. Six days you work. Seventh day you rest, i.e. be renewed.

7, Linger in God's Presence

How can I know what dreams and goals to pursue?

Psalm 16:11

You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

In His presence you get to know the path of life.
Stay in God's presence long enough to hear His plans.
Your perceptions are corrected in His presence.
Your faith becomes focused in His presence.
His commands for the day are given in inspired moments. His plans for your life are given as you linger long enough to know His heart.

Reminder about the WoL 2011: A year of harvest.
Where you will reap rewards of what you have been sowing.
You can sow and reap in one year. Diligence is required to sow.

ANTS

- ✓ MOTIVATED
- ✓ HAVE FORESIGHT (ARE FORWARD LOOKING)
- ✓ DILIGENT

“look at an ant. Watch it closely; let it teach you a thing or two.”



USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>