

WILLPOWER – LAZINESS (2 Thessalonians 3:6-9)

October 27, 2019

Pastor Augie Iadicicco

Most people would never call themselves “lazy.” But we are lazier than we think. We simply call our laziness “distraction.” How much time do we spend surfing websites or checking sports scores or just, generally, wasting time? The command against laziness is a call to focus our efforts on what truly matters. On this Reformation Sunday, we recognize that no amount of work earns our salvation, and no amount of laziness loses it; we are free in Christ! ... But we should ask ourselves, free for what purpose?

I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted. – Job 42:2

The Top 10 Reasons We Procrastinate ...

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters, to keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. – 2 Thessalonians 3:6

Guarding Against Laziness ...

1. You don't have to _____ to do it!

Genesis 3:17-19, Hebrews 12:2, Zephaniah 3:17

... For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. – Hebrews 12:2

2. Establish _____ habits.

Hebrews 10:25, Luke 22:39

Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. – Luke 22:39

3. Don't let _____ interfere with your _____.

1 Timothy 4:13-15, Ephesians 2:8-10

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. – Ephesians 2:8-10

Questions for individual or group reflection:

Are you a procrastinator? Or a work-aholic?

Have others ever characterized you as lazy?

How willing are you to do important things – even if you don't like to do them?

Consider how tempting it must have been for Jesus to “skip” doing what was required of Him by the Father? (See Luke 22:42 & Hebrews 12:2)

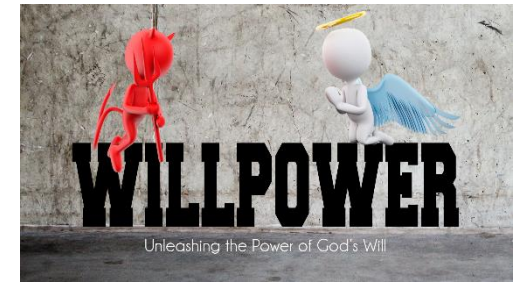
Why is it important to have good habits when it comes to accomplishing God's purpose in your life?

What is your purpose in life?

What is your biggest distraction to accomplishing that purpose?

We celebrate that as Christians we do not need to earn God's favor with our works ... then why not be lazy? (See Ephesians 2:8-10)

Does God forgive your laziness?



Pray: Heavenly Father, we cannot fathom how good you have been to us. You have given us grace we could never earn and blessings we could never deserve. These are ours as free gifts from you. Help us Lord to appreciate these gifts, but not allow them to cause us to be lazy. May we instead understand the magnitude of your mercy and love so that those shine through us. May every action of ours be a reflection of your grace in our lives, and so doing, may we give witness to your goodness and glory to your Son. Help us to be diligent in our efforts on this earth, not to earn your favor – but because we have it. And by our good deeds, may more people be drawn to Your Son Jesus. In His Name, we pray. Amen.

Do:

- Finish this statement, “I have been freed by God's grace, to ...”
- Make a list of bad habits that are distracting you from that purpose.
- Ask God to forgive your laziness, but to strengthen your resolve and ability to follow accomplish His purposes in your life.

Memory Verse: “And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good.” – 2 Thessalonians 3:13

This message uses materials from Rev. Bill Tucker & The Preaching Project



WILLPOWER

Unleashing the Power of God's Will

SCOTTY, I NEED

MORE POWER!

I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

JOB 42:2



THE TOP 10

REASONS I

PROCRASTINATE

1.

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters, to keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive and does not live according to the teaching you received from us.

2 THESSALONIANS 3:6

⁷ For you yourselves know how you should imitate us: We were not idle among you; ⁸ we did not eat anyone's food free of charge; instead, we labored and toiled, working night and day, so that we would not be a burden to any of you. ⁹ It is not that we don't have the right to support, but we did it to make ourselves an example to you so that you would imitate us.

2 THESSALONIANS 3:7-9

GUARDING AGAINST LAZINESS

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1. You don't have to like it to do it!

¹⁷ “You will eat from it by means of painful labor all the days of your life. ¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ You will eat bread by the sweat of your brow.”

GENESIS 3:17-19

...For the joy set before him he endured the cross,
scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand
of the throne of God

HEBREWS 12:2

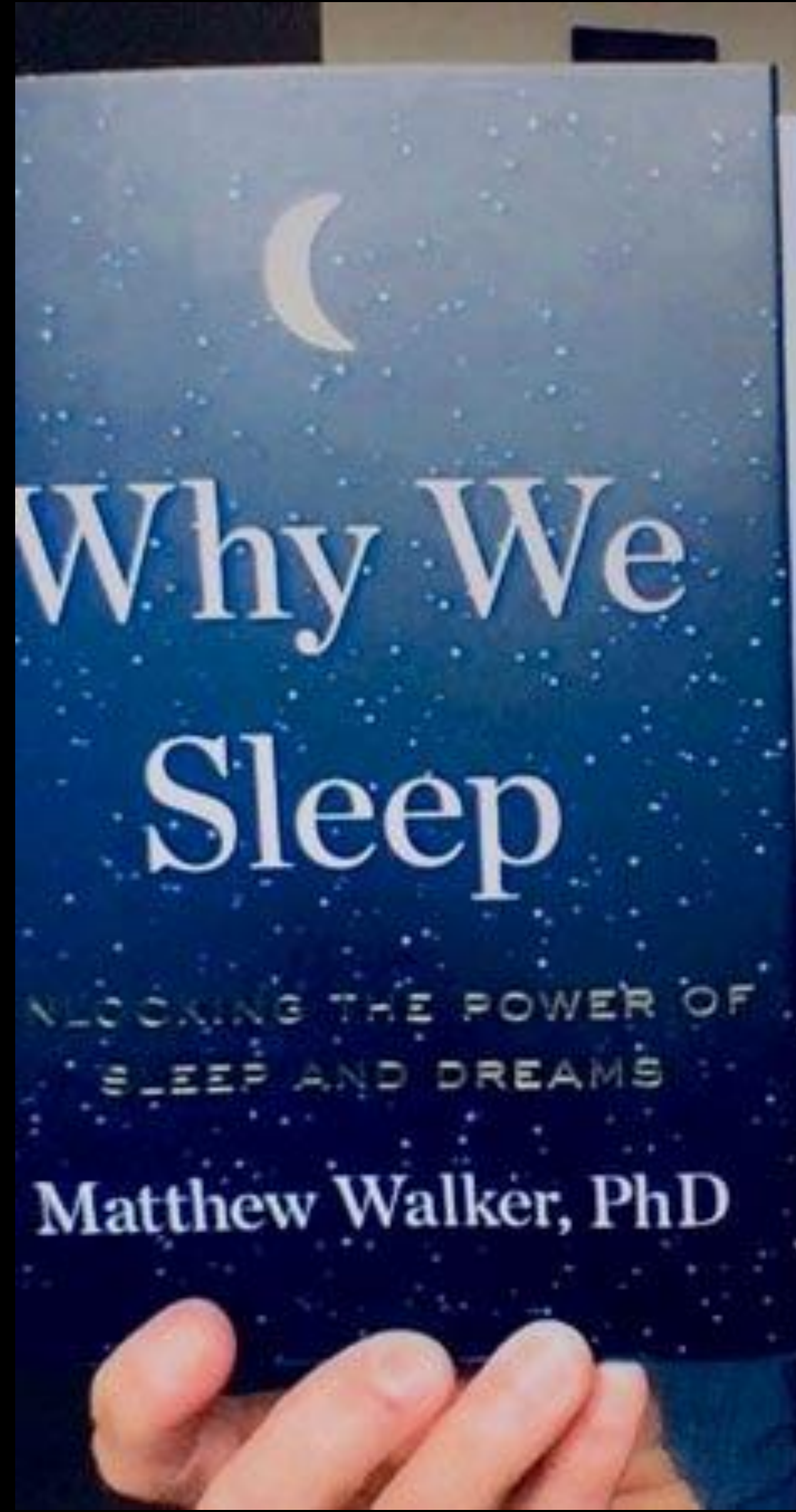
You are a *JOY* to Jesus!

The LORD your God is with you,
HE is mighty to save.
HE will take great delight in you,
HE will quiet you with His love,
HE will rejoice over you with singing.”

ZEPHANIAH 3:17

GUARDING AGAINST LAZINESS

1. You don't have to like it to do it!
2. Establish Godly habits.

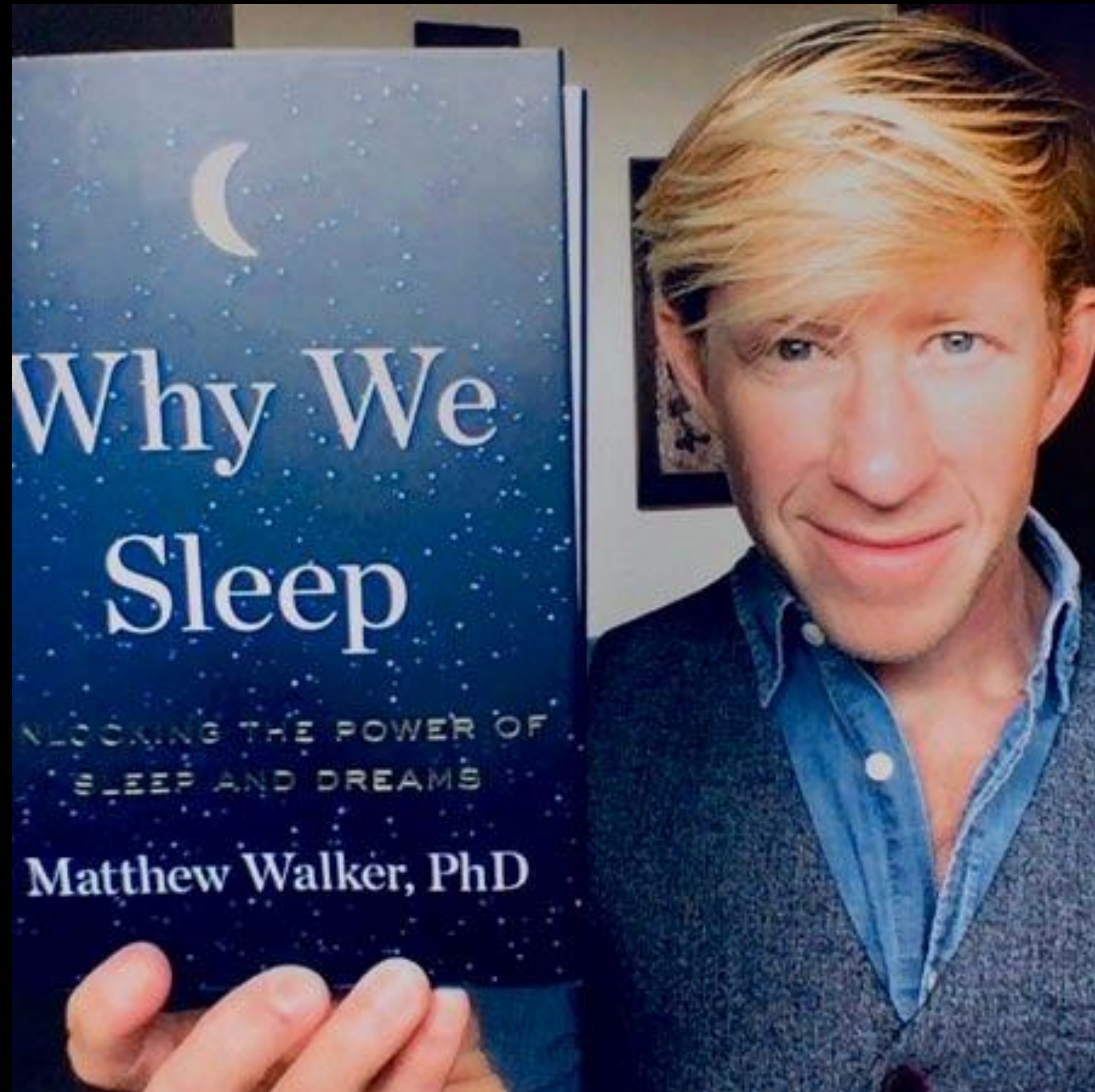


Why We Sleep

UNLOCKING THE POWER OF
SLEEP AND DREAMS

Matthew Walker, PhD





Scientists have discovered a revolutionary new treatment that makes you live longer. It enhances your memory, makes you more attractive. It keeps you slim and lowers food cravings. It protects you from cancer and dementia. It wards off colds and flu. It lowers your risk of heart attacks and stroke, not to mention diabetes. You'll even feel happier, less depressed, and less anxious. Are you interested?

not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching

HEBREWS 10:25

Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him.

LUKE 22:39

GUARDING AGAINST LAZINESS

1. You don't have to like it to do it!
2. Establish Godly habits.
3. Don't let distraction interfere with your purpose.

Until I come, give your attention to public reading, exhortation, and teaching. 15 Practice these things; be committed to them, so that your progress may be evident to all.

1 TIMOTHY 4:13, 15



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EPHESIANS 2:8-10

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EPHESIANS 2:8-10



Pray like it all depends on God,
then when you are done, go
work like it all depends on you.

~ Martin Luther

