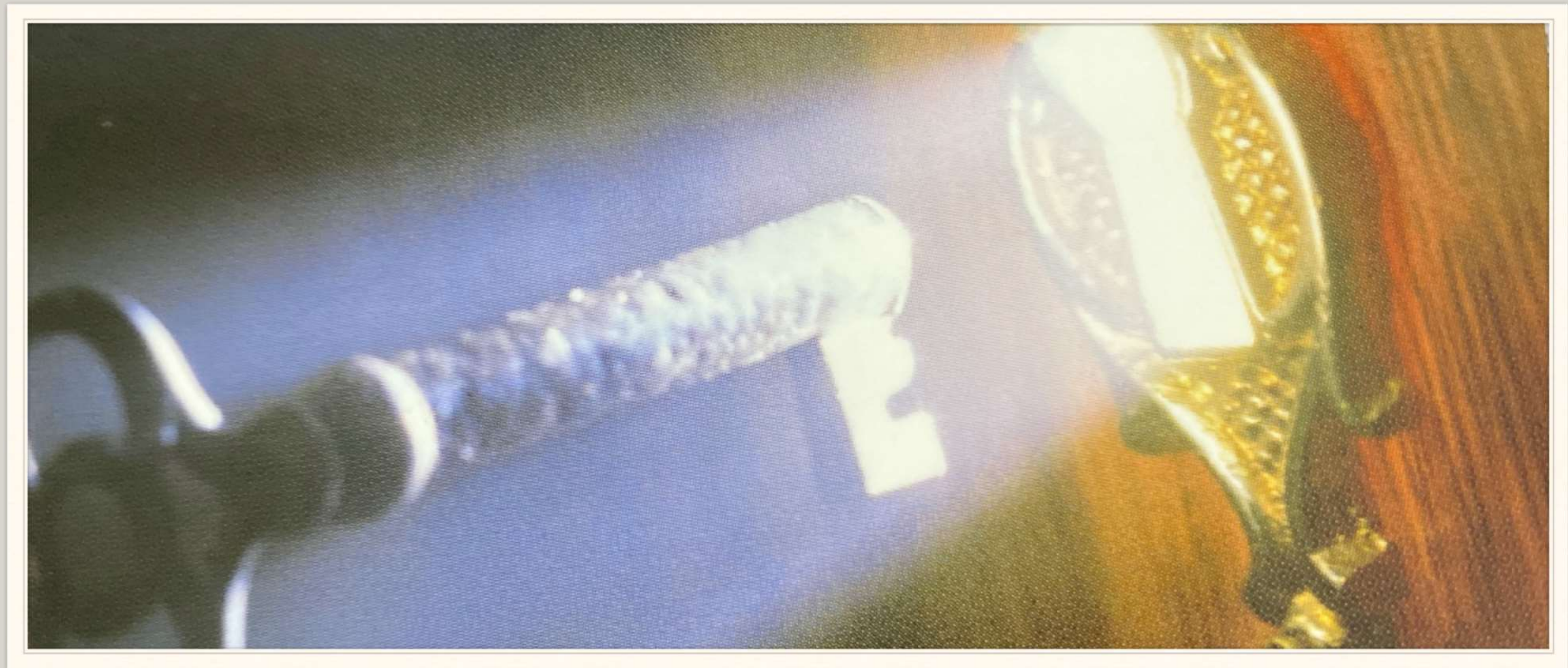


THE SECRET KEY TO HEAVEN



The Vital Importance of Private Prayer — by Thomas Brooks



“BUT WHEN YOU PRAY, GO INTO YOUR ROOM AND SHUT THE DOOR AND PRAY TO YOUR FATHER WHO IS IN SECRET. AND YOUR FATHER WHO SEES IN SECRET WILL REWARD YOU.”



Matthew 6:6

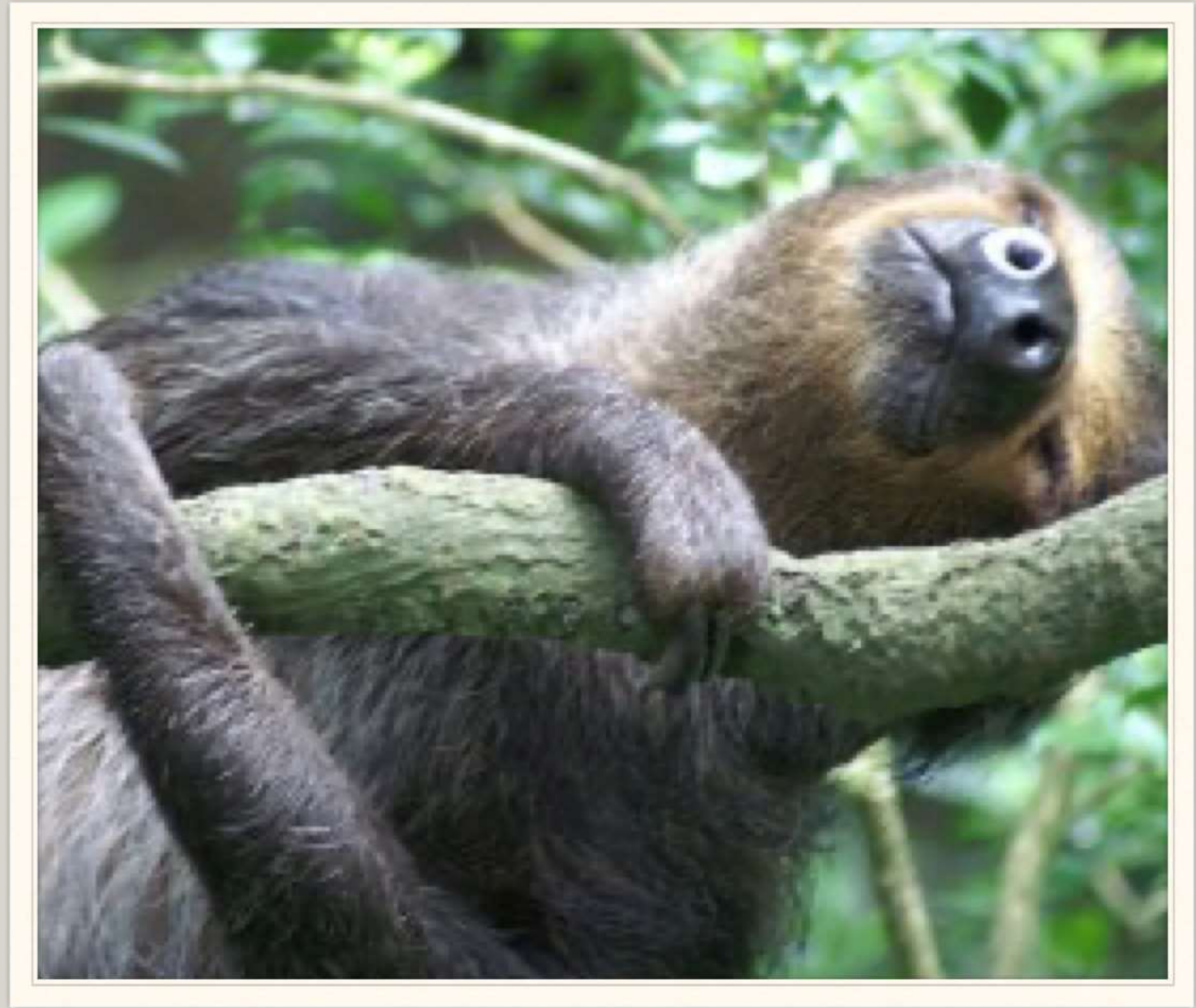
THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF PRIVATE PRAYER

- ❖ All Christians are called to pray (Colossians 4:2)
- ❖ Closet prayer is hard work and admittedly difficult
- ❖ The goal is to be “*faithful & conscientious*” in prayer
- ❖ To “addict” yourself to prayer, beware of 5 things

IDLENESS

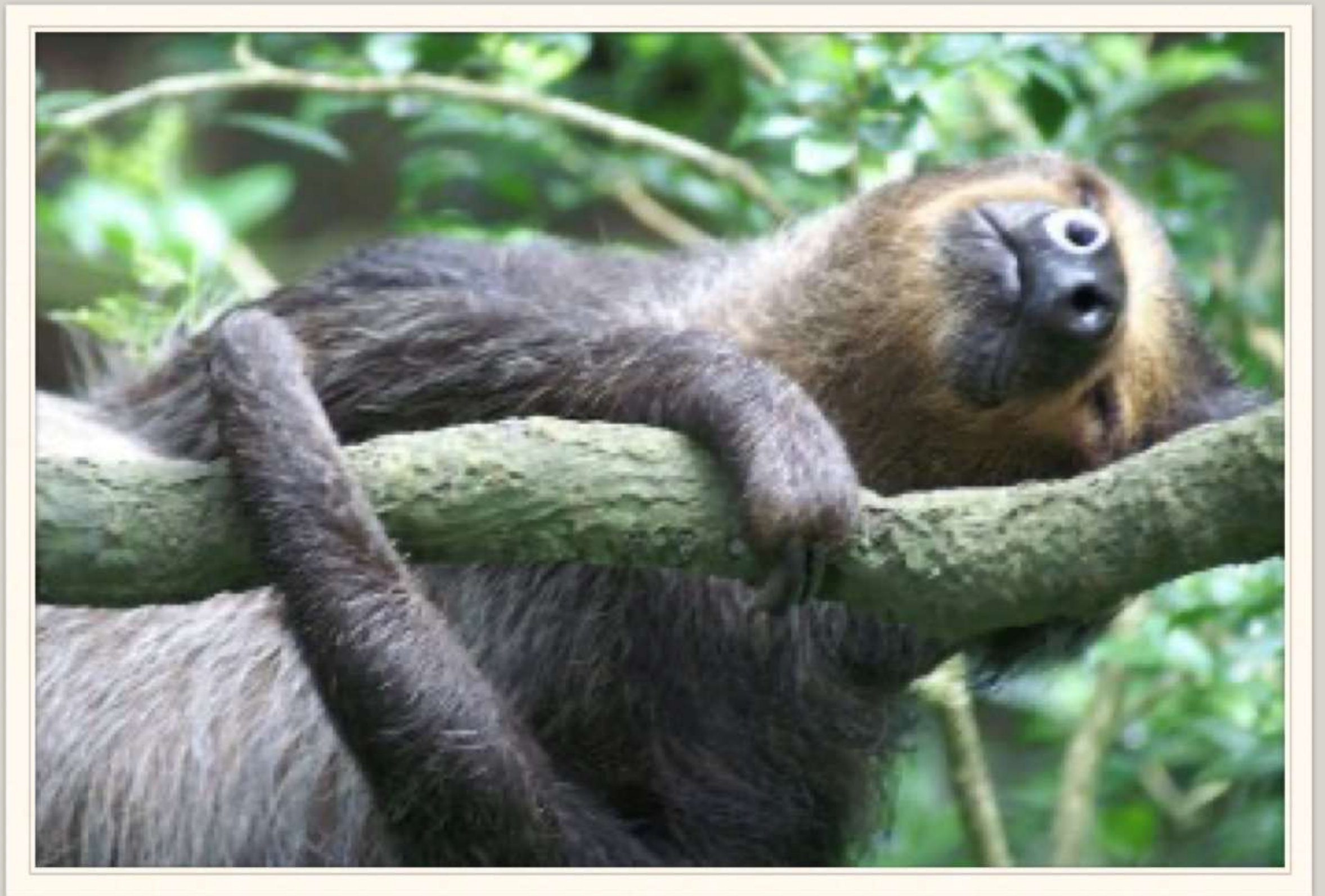


Beware of an idle &
slothful spirit



IDLENESS

- ❖ Adam had to work before & after the fall
- ❖ Idleness gives the devil an advantage



“Idleness is the hour of temptation, and an idle person is the devil’s tennis-ball, tossed by him at his pleasure.”

–Thomas Brooks

IDLENESS

- ❖ Notice creatures
- ❖ Shun sloth & idleness for the purpose of closet prayer



“There is not a greater hindrance to closet prayer than sloth and idleness.”

–Thomas Brooks

HYPOCRISY



Beware of spending too
much time in circumstantial
matters



HYPOCRISY

- ❖ The “little things of religion” can distract
- ❖ A design of Satan is to distract from prayer with focus on little things



*“I never knew any man hot and zealous
about circumstantials, about the little things
of religion, that was ever famous for closet
prayer.”*

–Thomas Brooks

HYPOCRISY

- ❖ Jesus gives warning to disciples against the hypocrisy of scribes & Pharisees
- ❖ Hypocrisy is a great hindrance to prayer so avoid and shun it



CURIOSITY



Beware of Curiosity



CURIOSITY

- ❖ Learn what God has revealed
- ❖ The secret things belong to God



“Let us not be ashamed to be ignorant in a matter in which ignorance is learning.”

–John Calvin

CURIOSITY

- ❖ Curiosity is like spiritual adultery & drunkenness
- ❖ How should we respond to hidden truths?



“Oh, that men were once so humble, as to account it no disparagement to them, to acknowledge some depths in God, and in the blessed Scripture, which their shallow reason cannot fathom!”

–Thomas Brooks