

Earthworms

Spiritual Analogies with Insights

Even though earthworms are rarely seen, their secret lives greatly multiply the productivity of the soil. (*Good soil, Matthew 13:23, Mark 4:20, Luke 8:15*)

Matthew 6:6 (NKJV)

“But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.”

One earthworm’s humble effort may seem trivial, but the combined energy of many earthworms is astounding. (*Body of believers in prayer with a humble spirit. 1 Peter 5:5-7, James 4:6-10*)

For example, an acre of good soil (*Parable of the soils, Matthew 13th chapter, Mark 4th chapter, and Luke 8th chapter*) may contain as many as ten million earthworms.

Each year they bring to the surface more than 36,000 pounds of subsoil and dig more than 2,000 miles of tunnels. They work!!

(*John 17:4, 1 Corinthians 15:58, Galatians 6:4, Colossians 1:10, Hebrews 6:10*)

Their persistent or continued efforts mix, aerate, loosen the soil so that plant roots are not “stressed”, as they grow. (*The believers study life 2 Timothy 2:15 AMP, John 15:7, Matthew 7:7*)

Also, water (*God’s Word*) can seep down into the loosened soil, rather than running off and causing erosion.

Perhaps the earthworm’s greatest contribution (*Spiritual nourishment*) to the soil is fertilizer.

Earthworms not only break down organic matter (*Meditation on God’s Word*) so that it is available for the plants (*People*) to use, they also produce large amounts of nitrogen.

Nitrogen is a natural waste product of the earthworm’s metabolism. As nitrogen builds up inside the earthworm’s body, it is collected and excreted through structures which scientist call *nephridia* (nih-FRID-ee-ah). (*Resourcefulness*)

Nephridia is a Greek word which means “relating to the kidney.” As an earthworm crawls along, it distributes nitrogen wherever it goes. (*Usefulness, dependability, thoroughness*)

Keep in mind, that the valuable work of the earthworm is accomplished in secret, (*1 Corinthians 15:57-58, Matthew 6:6, Psalm 91:1*) away from the view of those who later benefit from it.

Earthworms are also very neat creatures. (*One example of neatness, Luke 9:12-17*)

They carefully deposit their excrement outside the entrance of their burrows. (*Orderliness*)

Scientists call these piles *castings*. Castings are the mixed remains of organic matter and subsoil. Because they are rich in nutrients, they are a major source of natural fertilizer. (*1 Corinthians 1:30*)

Unfortunately, heavy applications of artificial fertilizers (*Non-Biblical materials*) tend to drive earthworms away.

This creates a continuing dependence upon more and more artificial nutrients, (*Non-Biblical materials*) while destroying the natural fertilizer which earthworms produce.

Note this, heavy applications of non-Biblical materials tend to drive our prayer time away and destroys effective prayer.

How dependent are earthworms on their “secret chambers”? (*Prayer time*)

Earthworms live most of their lives in hidden underground burrows. (*Prayer time*)
(*Keep in mind that prayer time can be anywhere at any time-on the go!*)

When they come out at night, they firmly anchor part of their bodies at the entrance to their burrow. (*Stay close to our prayer time wherever it is located.*)

If threatened, they can retreat in less than a second, and if they are caught, they will break apart **rather than** release their firm hold on their homes. (*Hold fast what we have including our prayer time*)

Revelation 3:11 (NKJV)

“Behold, I am coming quickly! **Hold fast what you have**, that no one may take your crown.”

Revelation 12:11 (NKJV)

“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and **they did not love their lives to the death.**”

Earthworms are worms with segmented bodies. The most common earthworm has about one hundred little rings. (*Consider memorized portions of God’s Word*)

An earthworm moves by alternately shortening some segments and stretching others. (*Wisdom, balance*)

For an earthworm, progress comes by **flexibility in a hidden chamber**. (*Flexibility for the believer is essential in their prayer time. Flowing with the Holy Spirit is the goal. Romans 8:14*)

Click here. More about segments and flexibility!

Original source: Earthworms: Wisdom Booklet 31:1521-1522

©Institute in Basic Life Principles. Used with permission.