

The Duty of Diligence

Tuesday, June 21, 2016



2 Corinthians 8:1-12 King James Version (KJV)

- 1 Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia;
- 2 How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.
- 3 For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves;
- 4 Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.
- 5 And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.
- 6 Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also.
- 7 Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.
- 8 I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love.
- 9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.
- 10 And herein I give my advice: for this is expedient for you, who have begun before, not only to do, but also to be forward a year ago.
- 11 Now therefore perform the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have.
- 12 For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not.

2 Peter 1:10

“Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall”

Diligence is necessary for the Christian to maintain a spiritual life. Neglect of duty will cripple spiritual strength and resilience, producing discouragement and decay.



- Diligence in Salvation: Surrendering the Heart

- Respond to the gospel: The first requirement of faith.

“And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.” (Mark 1:15)

- Surrender by faith: The first step of faith.

“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you”
(James 4:8a).

- Be totally committed

“20 And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God. 21 But all that heard him were amazed, and said; Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests?” (Acts 9:20-21).

Diligent

Hard working, industrious.

“Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall”



- Diligence in Salvation: Keeping the Heart

- Keeping the heart keeps the issues of life.

“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.” (Proverbs 4:23).

- Diligence preserves the calling and makes the election sure to guard against failure.

“Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy” (Jude 24).

- Diligence is the bridge between the cause (the promise) and the benefit (the blessing).

“4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. 8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (2 Peter 1:4-8).

Keeping the Heart

Look inward.

Look onward.

Look upward.



- Diligence in Spiritual Growth

- Commanded to Give All Diligence to Spiritual Development

- Character.

- “Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men” (2 Corinthians 3:2).

- Commitment.

- “9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. 10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall” (2 Peter 1:9-10).

- Diligence Required in Times of Trouble

- “24 Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one.

- 25 Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;

- 26 In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

- 27 In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.

- 28 Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.” (2 Corinthians 11:24-28).



- Diligence in Spiritual Growth (continued)

- Diligence in Duty to God

- Service unto God

- “For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!” (1 Corinthians 9:16).

- Financial Support

- Diligence: A Way of All Life

- “His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.” (Matthew 25:23).



Diligence should be a way of life.

“For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.” (Hebrews 6:10)



- Diligence Required in Our Service

- Preaching the Gospel

- Commanded to go into all the world and preach the gospel.

“19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” (Matthew 28:19-20).

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.” (John 14:12).

- Commanded to be a light to the world.

“As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” (John 9:5).

“14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:14-16).



- Diligence Required in Our Service

- Serving Others

- In Sacrifice.

- “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.” (Romans 12:1).

- In Exhortation.

- “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”

“Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me” (2 Timothy 4:9).

Exhort: to urge strongly, to warn earnestly.

