

Diligence: Man's Precious Possession

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- I. Introduction – What is diligence?
 - a. Definitions
 - i. English
 - 1. persevering and careful in work; hardworking, industrious
 - 2. done with careful, steady effort; painstaking
 - ii. Hebrew
 - 1. incisive, sharp, determined, eager
 - 2. quick, skillful
 - 3. be early at a task, seek diligently – Lost Bolt Illustration
 - iii. Greek
 - 1. speed, eagerness, earnestness
 - 2. use speed, make effort, endeavor, be prompt or earnest
 - 3. search out, investigate, crave
 - b. Plan of Study
 - i. Diligence defined in the Wisdom literature
 - ii. Diligence applied in the New Testament
- II. Diligence in the Wisdom Literature
 - a. Contrasted with:
 - i. The lazy man (Prov. 10:4, 12:24, 12:27, 13:4)
 - ii. The hasty man (Prov. 21:5)
 - b. Results in:
 - i. Riches
 - ii. Influence
 - iii. Plenty
 - iv. Recognition
 - c. Why diligence works:
 - i. It applies all the force of a person to one task (Eccl 9:10)
 - ii. It does not permit distractions or excuses to suspend or postpone effort (Eccl 11:4)
 - iii. It spends more than enough effort to account for the unknown (Eccl. 11:6)
 - d. The limits of diligence:
 - i. Can be used for good or evil (Prov. 7:15)
 - ii. Cannot extract us from the consequences of our actions (Prov. 1:28; Heb. 12:17)
 - iii. Is not an end in itself (Eccl 6:7)
- III. Diligence in the New Testament
 - a. Apply diligence to:
 - i. Repentance (2 Cor. 7:11)
 - ii. Caring for those in need (2 Cor. 8:7-8)

- iii. Laboring for the name of God and ministering to the saints (Heb. 6:10-12)
- iv. Cultivating Christian graces (2 Peter 1:5,10)
- v. Studying the Scriptures (2 Tim. 2:15)
- vi. Striving for Christian unity (Eph. 4:3)
- vii. Getting to heaven (Heb. 4:11)
- viii. Preparing for Jesus' return (2 Peter 3:14)

IV. Conclusion

- a. The diligent search – Lost Bolt Illustration
 - i. For good (Prov. 11:27)
 - ii. For wisdom (Prov. 8:17)
 - iii. For salvation (1 Pet. 1:10)
 - iv. For God (Heb. 11:6)
- b. The search for the truly good things is open to all, and success is assured if we seek with diligence – “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they shall be filled”
- c. Invitation

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

Proverbs 12:24 – The hand of the diligent will rule, But the lazy man will be put to forced labor.

Proverbs 12:27 – The lazy man does not roast what he took in hunting, But diligence is man's precious possession.

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

Proverbs 21:5 – The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, But those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty.

Proverbs 22:29 – Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before unknown men.

Ezra 7:6 – this Ezra came up from Babylon; and he was a skilled scribe in the Law of Moses . . .

Proverbs 7:15 – So I came out to meet you, Diligently to seek your face, And I have found you,

Proverbs 11:27 – He who earnestly seeks good finds favor, But trouble will come to him who seeks evil

Psalms 63:1 – O God, You are my God; Early I will seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry land Where there is no water.

Psalms 78:34 - When He slew them, then they sought Him; And they returned and sought earnestly for God.

Proverbs 1:28 – Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me.

Proverbs 8:17 – I love those who love me, And those who seek me diligently will find me

OT Words

Diligence

[C] 4929 – a guard; Prov 4:23 (watch, guard, prison)

Diligent

[A] 2742 – incised, incisive, sharp, determination, eager; Prov. 10:4, 12:24, 12:27, 13:4, 21:5 (decision, sharp, pointed things, threshing instrument)

[B] 4106 – quick, skillful; Prov. 22:29 (hasty, ready [Ez. 7:6])

Diligently

[C] 995 – to separate mentally, distinguish, understand; Ps. 37:10

3966 – vehemently, wholly, speedily; Ps. 119:4 (especially, exceedingly, quickly, utterly)

[A] 7836 – at dawn, be early at a task, seek diligently; Prov. 7:15, 11:27 (early[Ps. 63:1, 78:34, Prov. 1:28, 8:17], in the morning)

slack

7423

lazy

6102

hasty

213

Romans 12:8 – not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord

2 Corinthians 7:11 – For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

2 Corinthians 7:12 – Therefore, although I wrote to you, I did not do it for the sake of him who had done the wrong, nor for the sake of him who suffered wrong, but that our care for you in the sight of God might appear to you.

2 Corinthians 8:7-8 – But as you abound in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us – see that you abound in this grace also. I speak not by commandment, but I am testing your love by the diligence of others.

Hebrews 6:11-12 – And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

2 Peter 1:5 – But for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,

2 Peter 1:10 – Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make you call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;

Jude 3 – Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

2 Corinthians 8:16 – But thanks be to God who puts the same earnest care for you into the heart of Titus.

Mark 6:25 – Immediately she came in with haste to the king and asked, saying, “I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.”

Luke 1:39 – Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah,

2 Timothy 2:15 – Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Timothy 4:9, 21 – Be diligent to come to me quickly. . . . Do your utmost to come before winter. . . .

Titus 3:12 – When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicus, be diligent to come to me at Nicapolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there.

Hebrews 4:11 – Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.

2 Peter 3:14 – Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;

2 Peter 1:15 – Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.

Galatians 2:10 – They desired only that we should remember the poor, the very thing which I also was eager to do.

1 Thessalonians 2:17 – But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavored more eagerly to see your face with great desire.

Ephesians 4:3 – endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.

Hebrews 11:6 – But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

1 Peter 1:10 – Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you,

Acts 15:17 – So that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, Even all the Gentiles who are called by My name, Says the Lord who does all these things.

Romans 3:11 – There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.

NT Words

Diligence

[B] 2039 – occupation, profit, pains; Lk 12:58 (trade [Acts 19:35], gain, work [Eph. 4:19])

[A] 4710 – speed, eagerness, earnestness; Rom. 12:8, 11; 2 Cor. 7:11, 2 Cor. 8:7,8; Heb. 6:11; 2 Pet. 1:5; 2 Pet. 1:10; Jude 3 (business, earnest care [2 Cor. 8:16], care [2 Cor. 7:12], carefulness, forwardness, haste [Mk 6:25, Lk. 1:39])

[A] 4704 – use speed, make effort, be prompt or earnest; 2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Tim. 4:9; 2 Tim. 4:21, Heb 4:11 Tit. 3:12; 2 Pet. 3:14 (careful [2 Pet. 1:15], eager [Gal. 2:10], endeavor [1 Th. 2:17, Eph. 4:3])

Diligent

4705 – prompt, energetic, earnest; 2 Cor. 8:22

4707 – more prompt, more earnest; 2 Cor. 8:17, 22

Diligently

[C] 199 – exactly; Mt. 2:8; Acts 18:25

[C] 1960 – carefully; Lk. 15:8

4706 – more earnestly, very promptly; 2 Tim. 1:17

4709 – earnestly, promptly; (haste [Tit. 3:13])

[A] 1567 – search out, investigate, crave, demand, worship; Heb. 11:6 (enquire [1 Pet 1:10], require, seek [Acts 15:17, Rom. 3:11])