



LIVING THE LIFE OF FAITH THROUGH DILIGENCE

8 January 2012, Stephen Smith

1. God rewards diligence!

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

For by it the elders obtained a good report.

By faith we understand that the ages were framed by a word of God, so that the things being seen not to have come into being out of the things that appear.

By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts. And by it he, being dead, yet speaks.

By faith Enoch was translated so as not to see death, and he was not found, because God had translated him; for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

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.

Hebrews 11:1-6

Man wants to obtain goals that will create within himself-satisfaction and a sense of fulfillment. There is no lasting satisfaction in accomplishing anything outside the activities and ideas inspired by God. The only means of accomplishing the desires and goals that are most important in human life is through **re-establishing the relationship, which God originally designed.**

The person who is diligent in the kingdom of God will with increasing clarity see the goals that God has designed for him. As the goals become clear they must continue to seek God, and live by His standard in order to bring those goals to reality.

We want the Word to work for us every time. This will require a decision of quality to change your life. What I am talking about has to be lived, or it won't work.

Verse 6a... You cannot please God without faith, or you cannot please God without His Word! *What is it that I have to have in order to please Him? What is it I have to do in order to please Him?* We saw that it is faith.

Verse 6b...

- *For him that cometh to God must believe that he is*
- *And that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him*

2. God is a rewarder

NOW FAITH is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses].

But without faith it is impossible to please and be satisfactory to Him. For whoever would come near to God must [necessarily] believe that God exists and that He is the rewarder of those who earnestly and diligently seek Him [out].

Hebrews 11:1, 6 (Amplified)

And this is the confidence (the assurance, the privilege of boldness) which we have in Him: [we are sure] that if we ask anything (make any request) according to His will (in agreement with His own plan), He listens to and hears us.

1 John 5:14

We have this false humility-mentality that if it doesn't work, that's alright. Just love the Lord anyway.

The only way I can love Him is through His Word (faith). The only way I can get to know Him is through His Word. The only way I can trust Him is through His Word. When His Word says one thing, and He does another thing, then I cannot trust His Word.

GOD IS A REWARDER. God wants to reward you if you obey the laws of life in the Kingdom. The reward has a qualification tag with it.

3. Definition of diligence

It is **steady** application. It is **constant** effort to accomplish what is undertaken. **Not being idled, not being negligent.**

Diligence is an inward attitude that cannot be measured by an outward busyness. **What are you saying, confessing, and declaring beyond close doors?**

4. Choose the “good part”

And as they went, it happened that He entered into a certain village. And a certain woman named Martha received Him into her house.

And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word.

But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she came to Him and said, Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.

And Jesus answered and said to her, Martha, Martha; you are anxious and troubled about many things.

But one thing is needful, and Mary has chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

Luke 10:38-42

Good part, indicate that there is another part.

The rewards do not come from outward busyness that is not first of all motivated by intimate relationship with the Lord. Be careful not to think that it is by your works that you are going to receive your reward. Jesus already said; **by grace you are saved through your faith.**

But you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He Who gives you power to get wealth.

Deuteronomy 8:18

I Chronicles 21:1-7

It will be because you are steady, constantly seeking his face. You have to seek his face in order to know what you are supposed to do in the first place.

In that presence of an Almighty sufficient God, whatever you need at that time, He'll provide.

5. Diligence is having a relationship with God

Diligence is an inward attitude expressed first in a deep desire for intimate relationship with God.

People who are driven by an outward attitude (busyness), and who are not first diligent in their relationship with God; seek their motivation from other people. Do not depend on people for your motivation – depend on God. God's Word motivates me.

Conclusion:

We need to ask the question: *What is being kept from me? What would happen if I defeat that attack around the Word? What would happen to me if I would read the Word everyday instead of once or twice a week?*

God has created you for something amazing and you don't want to miss it!

Prayer:

In the Name of Jesus, I declare right now; *I am a diligent Christian. And I will please the Father. I believe that He is. I believe that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. The reward has been laid up for the diligent seeker.*

Father I pray in the Name of Jesus that this inward attitude called diligence will be expressed first in a deep desire for intimate relationship with you. And I pray Lord that you will give me the desire to have strong relationship, strong intimacy with you. You will give me the desires of my heart.

Father I declare now that I walk in diligence. That diligence will allow me to have the ruling hand. My diligence will bring me before kings. My diligence will make me fat in abundance with the reward and blessings of God. I declare in the Name of Jesus; *I am a diligent – steady - constant Christian about fellowshiping with God through His Word and prayer.* In Jesus Name I will not walk in slothfulness. I will not allow laziness. I will not allow inconsistency to kill my diligence. From this day on, I begin NOW; I make the decision NOW to seek the face of God through the Word of God. From this moment on, an award shall surely be mine! I believe that, I receive that; I now have a sure thing that my diligence will produce. – AMEN