



## LIVING THE LIFE OF FAITH THROUGH DILIGENCE

22 January 2012, Stephen Smith

<sup>9</sup> *The coming [of the lawless one, the antichrist] is through the activity and working of Satan and will be attended by great power and with all sorts of [pretended] miracles and signs and delusive marvels-[all of them] lying wonders-*

<sup>10</sup> *And by unlimited seduction to evil and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing (going to perdition) because they did not welcome the Truth but refused to love it that they might be saved.*

<sup>11</sup> *Therefore God sends upon them a misleading influence, a working of error and a strong delusion to make them believe what is false,* <sup>12</sup> *In order that all may be judged and condemned who did not believe in [who refused to adhere to, trust in, and rely on] the Truth, but [instead] took pleasure in unrighteousness.*

**2 Thessalonians 2:1-11 (Amplified)**

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

*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**

**The promise comes from steady, constant effort to obtain what has been undertaken.** It is not the person who feels like it, or the person who is in trouble, or feeling the urge to - but the person who diligently seek God.

The Bible is speaking of redeeming your time. Taking every opportunity, making something out of every opportunity, or to be **CEASELESS (Ceaselessness, uninterrupted, unremitting, never-ending, and gnawing).**

God is a rewarder of a steady, constant life lived.

### **Faith vs. law – or diligence!**

People think because they don't receive the breakthrough, or the reward is because of a lack of faith. Because of this mind set we feel condemned, guilty and that results to having **no faith in our righteousness** which we have received freely through GRACE!

**There's nothing wrong with God, nothing wrong with the Word, and through the blood of Jesus – grace, nothing wrong with you! Receive your inheritance.**

Diligence is not the law! It's a **steady** application. It is **constant** effort to accomplish what is undertaken. **Not being idled, not being negligent.**

*So faith comes by...*

*Hearing [what is told], and what is heard comes by the preaching [of the message that came from the lips] of Christ (the Messiah Himself). (Rom. 10:17, Amplified)*

*The point is, before you trust, you have to listen. But unless Christ's Word is preached, there's nothing to listen to (Message).*

Diligence does not "qualify" you to receive. Diligence is choosing the good part. **Good part**, indicate that there is another part.

## Offence limit the reward of diligence

We become offended when we are called into a deeper commitment!

*To be offended is to be affronted, insulted, wounded, disgusted, incensed, vexed, irritated galled and disgruntled.*

- Reader's Digest Family Word Finder

## Reasons why we get offended and quite:

*ALSO [Jesus] told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not to turn coward (faint, lose heart, and give up).*

Luke 18:1 (Amplified)

- **People get offended when they go through hard times.**

*But they have no root in themselves, but are temporary. Afterward when affliction or persecution arises for the Word's sake, they are immediately offended.*

Mark 4:17 (MKJV)

Life's pressures will put your faith to the test! Learn how not to get offended with God when life treats you badly.

- **We get offended when things do not work out as we expected or hoped.**

In **Matthew 11:4-6**, *John the Baptist sends his disciples to ask Jesus: Are you the one, or should we look for another?* John wants to switch allegiance and break relationship with Jesus. He knew Jesus; he heard God confirmed that Jesus is God's son.

Jesus sends the messengers back with the words...***And blessed is he, whoever shall not be offended in Me.***

- **We get offended when people threaten our established religious traditions.**

Not everything we do in churches is helpful, but that does not necessarily make it wrong. It is a matter of your paradigm, what you have been taught. Be careful not to draw wrong conclusions. Religious traditions, even modern traditions, have a way of setting in us and can make us rigid.

- **We become offended when we are called into a deeper commitment.**

In **John 6**, **Jesus feeds 5000 people.** They flock after Him for more blessing and are attracted by His goodness and love for them. He then calls them on to a deeper commitment. They are offended at this and leave. At that point He asks the disciples if they would also like to leave. In **verse 61**, **Jesus asked, does this offend you?** In **verse 60** **they say that it is a hard teaching to accept.** Not hard to *understand*, but hard to *accept*!

We have to be sure of the vision and the level of commitment that we are prepared to give to our church. This is the difference between people going for gold and people not going for gold. Not all God's people will reach gold if they resist going to the next level! A church is not just about receiving, it's about giving.

Superstition and home-brewed theology is the so-called discernment of many Christians today. They hop from church to church embracing what they feel is 'of God' and 'not of God' and because of this never commit to any vision or call of God and therefore never reach their Promised Land.

- **People become offended when God does not do what they believed he would.**

We should never bring our believing down to the level of our experience!

In **John 11:1-6, 17-32**, we read the story of Mary and Martha and the loss of their brother Lazarus. Jesus finally comes to them after he had waited three days, they are in mourning and Lazarus is in the tomb. In **verse 20**, it's Martha now who goes out to meet Jesus but Mary stays in the house – she is offended!

She is affected in zeal, but not in faith. In **verse 29**, she gets up and goes to Jesus and expresses the faith in Him she held unto, **Lord if you had been here, my brother would not have died**. She was expecting God to act in a certain way and it offended her.

- **People become offended at the zeal of others.**

**Mark 3:21-34**, Jesus' family came to see Him and they say that **he is out of His mind**. They are on the outside looking in. They are not in the flow and do not see or recognise what God is doing.

Life is something that cannot be quenched; it cannot be controlled for the sake of others; if you do that you will lose the life. If you opt for life – reaching for gold, then be sure you will offend people and that's normal. If Jesus offended people then we will too! We do not set out to offend, but we accept that it happens.

- **People become offended when God begins to use people they do not like or respect.**

In **Mark 6:1-5**, Jesus was in His home town and the attitude of the people there towards Him was negative. They were offended at Him because He was one of them, and they did not respect Him.

## Conclusion

People come to churches with expectations, they marry with expectations, go to shops with expectations. Enter relationships with expectations. If these are not met, it results in anger and they are kept confined and no breakthroughs results – no rewards.

Let the Word become your **Security**, your **Economy**, your **Income**, your **Provision**, your **Healing**, your **Deliverance**, and your **Destiny!**