



## LIVING THE LIFE OF FAITH THROUGH DILIGENCE

29 January 2012, Stephen Smith

### Declare:

I have set my heart to love God and to enjoy Him to fulfil my **potential** in Him, I have become free, unhindered and living a life of successive breakthrough. My goal in life is to lead people to **gold** in every area of their lives by teaching the goodness of God and sharing the best thing in life - Jesus Christ!

*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.**

### BUT!

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

Romans. 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.

When I go to God, I go to Him expecting to receive what He already made available through Jesus. There are **blessings** that comes through obedience.

There is a **danger** in looking at the rewards God wants us to receive. That is, for those who **want** the rewards of diligence - but refuse to **live** diligently! If you want the rewards of diligence, you will settle for some type of scheme or religious act. You will settle for the spectacular over the supernatural.

You don't move the hand of God just because you have a need. You move the hand of God because you operate in faith. Faith in Him - His Word will move His hand! **...through and by (Jesus), the anointed Word of God (Phil.4:19).**

The thing you want is not greater than the **person who gives you the thing**. There is **nothing** wrong in having the **things!** Just put it in perspective. But God is the **rewarder of things!**

**But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.**

Matthew 6:33

### What motivates you to get the reward?

God is aware that the anticipation and the expectation of a reward will motivate us to action.

## David and Goliath:

<sup>25</sup> The talk among the troops was, "Have you ever seen anything like this, this man openly and defiantly challenging Israel? The man who kills the giant will have it made. The king will give him a huge reward, offer his daughter as a bride, and give his entire family a free ride."

<sup>26</sup> David, who was talking to the men standing around him, asked, "What's in it for the man who kills that Philistine? Who does he think he is, anyway, this uncircumcised Philistine, taunting the armies of God-Alive?"

<sup>32</sup> "Master," said David, "don't give up hope. I'm ready to go and fight this Philistine."

I Samuel 17:25-32 (Message)

## Elijah and the widower:

<sup>12</sup> And she said, As Jehovah your God lives, I do not have a cake, but only a handful of meal in a pitcher and a little oil in a jar. And behold, I am gathering two sticks, so that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, so that we may eat it and die.

<sup>13</sup> And Elijah said to her, do not fear, go. Do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it, and bring it to me. And then make for you and for your son.

<sup>14</sup> For so says Jehovah, the God of Israel, The pitcher of meal shall not be emptied, nor shall the jar of oil fail, until the day that Jehovah sends rain on the earth.

<sup>15</sup> And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah. And she and he and her house ate many days.

I Kings 17:12-15

And it will be, if you shall listen carefully to the voice of Jehovah your God, to observe and to do all His commandments which I command you today, Jehovah your God will set you on high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come on you and overtake you, if you will listen to the voice of Jehovah your God.

Deuteronomy 28:1-2

What does it mean to **hearken**? It is hearing the Word and then doing it. How should we hearken? Diligently, steady and constantly living the Word! Then the **blessings** will **come** and **overtake** you.

## Do not give in to temptation

<sup>1</sup> Next Jesus was taken into the wild by the Spirit for the Test. The Devil was ready to give it.

<sup>2</sup> Jesus prepared for the Test by fasting forty days and forty nights. That left him, of course, in a state of extreme hunger, <sup>3</sup> which the Devil took advantage of in the first test: "Since you are God's Son, speak the word that will turn these stones into loaves of bread."

<sup>4</sup> Jesus answered by quoting Deuteronomy: "It takes more than bread to stay alive. It takes a steady stream of words from God's mouth."

<sup>5</sup> For the second test the Devil took him to the Holy City. He sat him on top of the Temple and said, <sup>6</sup>"Since you are God's Son, jump." The Devil goaded him by quoting Psalm 91: "He has placed you in the care of angels. They will catch you so that you won't so much as stub your toe on a stone."

<sup>7</sup> Jesus countered with another citation from Deuteronomy: "Don't you dare test the Lord your God."

<sup>8</sup> For the third test, the Devil took him on the peak of a huge mountain. He gestured expansively, pointing out all the earth's kingdoms, how glorious they all were.

<sup>9</sup> Then he said, "They're yours—lock, stock, and barrel. Just go down on your knees and worship me, and they're yours."

<sup>10</sup> Jesus' refusal was curt: "Beat it, Satan!" He backed his rebuke with a third quotation from Deuteronomy: "Worship the Lord your God, and only him. Serve him with absolute single-heartedness."

<sup>11</sup> The Test was over. The Devil left. And in his place, angels! Angels came and took care of Jesus' needs.

Matthew 4:1-11 (Message)

Again, the devil took Him up on a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory (the splendour, magnificence, pre-eminence, and excellence) of them (Verse 8; Amplified).

The blessings of God do not come automatically.

**Somebody birthed** all these things in the realm of the Spirit and **cause it to happen**. Putting **faith pressure** in the realm of the Spirit and moved it from the Spirit realm to manifest in this physical world.

Obedience to God produces blessings out of the realm of the Spirit. Living right because it is right will produce rewards on your behalf. You are not wasting time every time you open that Bible to read it – No! You are sowing seeds of rewards.

**BLESSED (HAPPY, fortunate, to be envied) are the undefiled (the upright, truly sincere, and blameless) in the way [of the revealed will of God], who walk (order their conduct and conversation) in the law of the Lord (the whole of God's revealed will).**

**Blessed (happy, fortunate, to be envied) are they who keep His testimonies, and who seek, inquire for and of Him and crave Him with the whole heart.**

**Yes, they do no unrighteousness [no willful wandering from His precepts]; they walk in His ways.**

**You have commanded us to keep Your precepts, that we should observe them diligently.**

**Oh, that my ways were directed and established to observe Your statutes [hearing, receiving, loving, and obeying them]!**

**Then shall I not be put to shame [by failing to inherit Your promises] when I have respect to all Your commandments.**

**Psalm 119:1-6 (Amplified)**

**Every time there is a reward, it was preceded with diligence!**

**And they came to Jericho. And as He with His disciples and a large crowd went out of Jericho, blind Bartimeus, the son of Timeus, was sitting by the side of the highway, begging.**

**And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, Jesus, son of David, have mercy on me!**

**And many warned him that he should be quiet, but he cried a great deal more, Son of David, have mercy on me!**

**And Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called. And they called the blind man, saying to him, be of good comfort; rise up, He is calling you.**

**And casting away his garment, he rose up and came to Jesus.**

**And answering Jesus said to him, what do you desire that I should do to you? The blind man said to Him, My Lord that I may see again.**

**And Jesus said to him, Go, your faith has healed you. And instantly he saw again, and he followed Jesus in the way.**

**Mark 10:46-52**

**Verse 50...for whoever would come to Jesus must BELIEVE that God is and that He is the REWARDER of those who DILIGENTLY seek Him.**

It was diligence that caused Jesus to stand still. Diligence will always get the attention of heaven.

**Verse 52; ...YOUR FAITH has healed you.** This man did all them. He believed that Jesus was. He acted out on the Word. THEN he added the missing substance to us getting our results – he added steadiness, consistency, and diligence. This more than believing the Word and acting on the Word!

You may believe the Word today, act on the Word perfectly and quit tomorrow - you will not see what you started. **In order to see what you started, you got to do it until you see it!**

### **THREE POINTS IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH YOUR GOD-GIVEN DESIRE AND GOAL:**

#### **1. Build a strong foundation:**

**Establish Your Word and confirm Your promise to Your servant, which is for those who reverently fear and devotedly worship You.**

**Psalm 119:38**

**Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.**

**Psalm 119:105**

Your choices need to line up with the will and Word of God! **also** when a revelation comes from hearing the Word it will not fly over your head. You will be able to get a hold of it. Have a good, quality, sound, and Biblical foundation. Then your decisions will be good, sound, and of quality.

#### **2. Allow yourself to increase one step at a time.**

Do not try to get results overnight. You might not spend quality time with the Lord now, but be steady, constant and diligent. Do not go backwards. **God is going to reward your diligence – not necessarily your time!**

**Diligence produces increase because it works with your desire!**

**3. Set your sight high.**

4. Going for the Gold, or God's best, is more than being blessed occasionally. It means walking in the blessing of God every day of your life.

Blessed means that you have entered into a state of being. It means to become the object of God's favour and empowered to prosper. You could say that people who are blessed are experiencing God's best. They are now able to be a blessing to others.

***You've all been to the stadium and seen the athlete's race. Everyone runs; one wins. Run to win. All good athletes train hard. They do it for a gold medal that tarnishes and fades. You're after one that's gold eternally.***

***I don't know about you, but I'm running hard for the finish line. I'm giving it everything I've got. No sloppy living for me!***

***I'm staying alert and in top condition. I'm not going to get caught napping, telling everyone else all about it and then missing out myself.***

**I Corinthians 9:24-27 (Message)**

Average athletes don't win Gold Medals. Average Christians don't abound in blessings. It's those who excel. It's those who will not only do what is required but they also go beyond. It's those who refuse to quite until they have attained God's best.

***Go to the ant, sluggard; consider her ways and be wise; who, having no guide, overseer, or ruler, provides her food in the summer and gathers her food in the harvest. How long will you sleep, O sluggard? When will you arise out of your sleep?***

**Proverbs 6:6-9**

***Through skill full and godly Wisdom is a house (a life, a home, a family) built, and by understanding it is established [on a sound and good foundation], and by knowledge shall its chambers [of every area] be filled with all precious and pleasant riches.***

***[Put first things first.] Prepare your work outside and get it ready for yourself in the field; and afterward build your house and establish a home.***

***I went by the field of the lazy man and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; and, behold, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles were covering its face, and its stone wall was broken down.***

***Then I beheld and considered it well; I looked and received instruction.***

***Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep-so shall your poverty come as a robber, and your want as an armed man.***

**Proverbs 24:3, 4, 27, 30-34 (Amplified)**

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

**Declare:**

I am diligent. I walk steadily, consistently, and constantly in the Word of God. I live by faith. And in doing so, as a diligent seeker I please God. I don't seek the things – I seek God. Not His hands – but His face. And when I seek His face – I will get what is in His hands.

I declare right now: **i am diligent!** And as a diligent person, God rewards me for my diligence as said in His Word. He said it. He brought it up – not me. So in the Name of Jesus; having the covenant on my mind I declare: It is not a waste of time to live my life according to God's Word. It will produce rewards on my behalf - rewards. I anticipate and I expect it from this moment on. My life of diligence will produce the reward!

Thank you Lord. It's on my heart. Now, by faith I act on it.

In Jesus Name – AMEN