

Diligence – Finding Joy in Laboring

Diligence: Paying proper attention to a task; giving the degree of care required in a given situation.
Persevering determination to perform a task without unnecessary delay

Instruction in diligence from the Scriptures

1. Be observant: join God in what He is doing – Eph. 5:11-16.
2. Don't just work hard, work smart. Do it right: expeditiously, efficiently, and effectively.

This means bringing creativity and persistence, plus advice and help from others into the effort.

Define your vision, your larger purpose – Prov. 29:18.

“Whenever you introduce a true vision into any area of your life, you gain new energy. You will discover direction, motivation, joy, passion, energy, creativity, and commitment.... In fact, it's impossible to be truly diligent if you don't have a clear vision of what you want to achieve”

(Steven K. Scott, *The Richest Man Who Ever Lived*, pages 24-25).

Avoid being distracted from the important by the loud voice of the urgent.

Find a partner – Prov. 15:22.

“The truly diligent do not seek counsel simply when an endeavor is in trouble; rather, they seek counsel from the very beginning, before they begin an effort. This greatly reduces the risk of failure and significantly increases one's probability of success” (Scott 26).

3. Do it now! Take time to pray, plan, prepare, and perform.
4. Do it right – exactly as instructed – Ezra 7:23. In this verse, diligence means “correctly, exactly, earnestly.”
5. Do it until it is finished. “The diligent man is a steady performer, and the steady performer is a finish-er... God is calling all of us to be diligent, faithful.

*Diligence is the responsible, orderly, steady application of God's power within you,
toward whatever responsibility you have been given.*

6. “Press toward the mark.” – Phil. 3:14.

Diligence is motivated by wanting all that God has planned for us.

We must choose the will of God for our lives.

Pray daily for the will of God – expect it to be revealed.

Believe for the favor of the Lord.

7. Avoid laziness.

The root causes of laziness: Self-centeredness – Prov. 21:2; 26:16. Foolishness – Prov. 24:30-31.

Irresponsibility is knowing what you should do and choosing not to do it.

Laziness and procrastination are toxic – Prov. 13:12.

Gaining a clear and precise vision of our divine destiny can bring renewed life to our dreams.

Examples of diligence from the Bible

1. Moses building the Tabernacle
2. Noah building the Ark
3. Joshua conquering the enemies in the Promised Land – Josh. 23:1-3, 6-8, 14

Meditate - and grow in diligence

I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:14 KJV).

God's promises to the diligent

1. **You will profit** - In all labor there is profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty (Prov. 14:23 NASB).

“Diligent labor is demanding. It requires vision, creativity, commitment, and effective partnering. Essentially, Solomon is telling us that if you are not profitable in your career, or if your marriage isn't as fulfilling as you wish, you are probably not working diligently enough. Applying diligence to any area of our lives always brings profitable results” (Scott 17).

2. **Your wealth will steadily grow** - Wealth gained by dishonesty will be diminished, but he who gathers by labour will increase (Prov. 13:11).

3. **Respect** - Do you see a man diligent and skillful in his business?
He will stand before kings (Prov. 22:29 AMP).

You will be respected and sought out by people in positions of authority or prominence.

4. **True fulfillment** - But the soul of the diligent is made fat (Prov. 13:4 NASB).
Experience true fulfillment and contentment in your innermost being.
5. **You will be in control of the situation rather than have the situation control you** -
The hand of the diligent will rule, But the slack hand will be put to forced labor (Prov. 12:24 NASB).
6. **You will have the advantage** - The plans of the diligent lead surely to advantage (Prov. 21:5 NASB).
7. The joy of work

“Happiness resides in activity, both physical and mental. It resides in doing things that one can take pride in doing well, and hence that one can enjoy doing. It is a great mistake to identify enjoyment with mere amusement or relaxing or being entertained. Life's greatest joys are not what one does *apart from* the work of one's life, but *with* the work of one's life. Those who have missed the joy of work, or a job well done, have missed something very important”

Doer of the Word
Inspired by Vision
Labors hard
Invests in Wisdom
Goes the extra mile
Excellent in their work
Never gives up
Continues in faith
Excellent in their attitude