

Only *Diligence* Works!

There are two approaches to life.

- A. **Diligence.** Constant and earnest effort to accomplish what is undertaken; persistent application and endeavor; industry, assiduity.
- B. **Slothful.** Full of sloth; indisposed to exertion; inactive, indolent, lazy, sluggish. A lazy person, a sluggard.
- C. One way pleases the Lord and works – diligent effort (Proverbs 14:23; 21:25; Eccl 9:10).
 - 1. There are winners and losers in life, and personal diligence or slothfulness has a big role.
 - 2. Life just happens to most, and they are carried along by it, but others make life happen.
 - 3. Men in the workplace are able to witness the general slothfulness of most workers today.
- D. *Do not blame God or doubt His promises for not blessing slothfulness by you or anyone else.*

This is not a lesson in economic or financial success.

- A. Diligence in business brings success (Pr 10:4; 12:24,27; 13:4; 14:23; 21:5; 22:29; 27:23-27).
- B. Slothfulness in business will destroy you (Pr 6:6-11; 10:4; 12:24,27; 13:4; 14:23; 19:15,24; 20:4,13; 21:5; 24:30-34; Eccl 10:18).
- C. Diligence or slothfulness also determines spiritual success in life (John 6:27; Heb 6:11-12).
 - 1. Compare and contrast the enormous difference between the lives of Abraham and Lot!
 - 2. Our brother Paul outworked anyone before or since him (I Cor 15:10; II Timothy 4:7).
 - 3. It took violent pressing – diligence – to enter Christ’s kingdom (Luke 16:16; Matt 11:12).
- D. Only a few will cut it and be diligent, for most Christians are so only in name and a form.

This is a lesson in spiritual prosperity.

- A. Only diligent faith obtains promises and rewards (Hebrews 11:6; Jer 29:13; Matt 13:44-46).
- B. Only diligent keeping of God’s precepts works (Exodus 15:26; Deut 11:13-14,22-23; 28:1).
- C. Fathers must diligently teach children God’s commandments (Deut 4:9; 6:6-9; Joshua 22:5).
- D. Diligent inquisition and search was to be used in finding sinners (Deut 13:14; 17:4; 19:18).
- E. Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it is a successful life (Prov 4:23; Mat 15:17-20).
- F. We should earnestly, or diligently, contend for the faith once delivered to saints (Jude 1:3).
- G. We should be diligent in self-examination of the condition of our souls (Ps 77:6; Rev 2:5).
- H. Reconciling offences with your brethren is to be done quickly with diligence (Luke 12:58).
- I. Only those diligent in adding to their faith shows signs of being God’s elect (II Peter 1:5,10).
- J. It is only diligence for holiness that will spare us the fate of Esau’s profanity (Heb 12:14-17).
- K. Widows that are worthy of the support of the church are diligent in good works (I Tim 5:10).
- L. Finding sweet nourishment and fatness with God requires diligence seeking of God (Is 55:2).
- M. With the soon coming of Jesus Christ, we should be very diligent for holiness (II Pet 3:14).

Do not faint.

- A. Your flesh, the world, and the devil will do all they can to make you spiritually slothful.
- B. There are consequences to where you sow, and you will surely reap the results (Gal 6:7-10).
- C. Men are slothful without direct compensation, but labor for God is not in vain (I Cor 15:58).
- D. If you feel about to faint, consider the faithful diligence of Christ (II Thess 3:13; Heb 12:3).
- E. The yoke of Jesus is easy, and His burden is light, if you come unto Him (Matt 11:28-30).