

DILIGENCE

Diligence: 4704 spoudázō – properly, be swift (go fast, be speedy); (figuratively) to move speedily by showing full diligence (fully applying oneself);

Obeying God at once and quickly. 1Co 9:24 Run in such a way that you may obtain it (the prize).

- First off the starting line and keeping the fastest pace.



Warnings in the OT

- Pro 10:4 Lazy hands make for poverty, but diligent hands bring wealth.
- Pro 6:6 Go to the ant, you sluggard!
- Deu 6:17 You shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, His testimonies, and His statutes which He has commanded you.

Warnings in the OT

- Pro 10:4 Lazy hands make for poverty, but diligent hands bring wealth.
- Diligence, not just haste. Pro 21:5 The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, But those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty.
- Deu 6:17 You shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, His testimonies, and His statutes which He has commanded you.

Warnings in the OT - cont

- Deu 6:7 You shall teach them (God's laws) diligently to your children,
- Pro 4:23 Guard your heart with all diligence, for from it flow springs of life.
- Deu 13:13,14 (If wicked men are) 'saying, “Let us go and serve other gods” (which you have not known), Then shalt thou inquire, and make search, and ask diligently...

Diligence in the NT

- The Word. 2Ti 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
- Your life in Christ. Heb 6:10-12 paraphrased: 'God won't forget your work in the kingdom, but keep diligent until the end to secure your hope of heaven'
- Your brethren. Eph 4:13 'diligently preserve peace among brethren'

Rom 12

Diligence in building Christ's body

- Different mindset – Vs 1,2
- Different self esteem – Vs 3
- Different roles, functions – Vs 4
- Yet all one body – Vs 5, 1Co 12:27 individual members
- Different abilities – Vs 6-8: ministry, teaching, exhorting, giving, leading, showing mercy
- Loving, not lacking in diligence – Vs 9-11

Diligence in the body – Rom 12

- Different abilities – Vs 6-8: ministry, teaching, exhorting, giving, leading, showing mercy
- Christ's attitude – 9-16 Loving, cling to goodness (spiritual), affectionate, esteeming others, diligent, fervent, serving, rejoicing, patient, prayerful, hospitable (visiting), good talking about others, even enemies, empathetic – same mind, keeping humble aspirations, talking about the good things (spiritual)

Be Diligent with each other

- Eph 4:1,2 Walk in a worthy manner...`
 - Lowly, gentle, suffer long, long, long, bearing with others in LOVE! Speak truth in LOVE vs 15
- Eph 4:3-6 being diligent to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you also were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father...

Be Diligent with each other - cont

- Bearing long with one another is what God does with us.
- Rom 15:1,2 Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength, and not just please ourselves. Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification.
- Gal 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

Diligence in discerning differences

- Rom 14,15 discuss differences in the body and how to accept moral matters of indifference with God or change each other when we are not conforming to His will.
- Rom 15:14 Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.

Diligence in service to God, not putting off until judgment...

- 2Ti 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved unto God...
- Heb 4:11 Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest...
- 2Pet 1:3-10 Diligence in spiritual growth
- Jud 1:3 Jude's mailing efforts - "Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation"

Setting deadlines

- Deadlines don't work in spiritual matters.
- Do you know why?