

DILIGENCE, DILIGENT, DILIGENTLY

God told the Israelites that if they **diligently** listened to Him and did what was right in His sight, then He wouldn't put any of the diseases of the Egyptians upon them.

- **Exodus 15:26:** "And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee."

After Nadab and Abihu were killed (for offering strange fire to God), Moses **diligently** looked for the goat that had been offered as a sin offering.

- **Leviticus 10:16-17:** "And Moses diligently sought the goat of the sin offering, and, behold, it was burnt: and he was angry with Eleazar and Ithamar, the sons of Aaron which were left alive, saying, Wherefore have ye not eaten the sin offering in the holy place, seeing it is most holy, and God hath given it you to bear the iniquity of the congregation, to make atonement for them before the LORD?"

Moses commanded the Israelites to **diligently** keep their soul. (This meant walking in God's ways and teaching their children to obey His commandments.)

- **Deuteronomy 4:9:** "Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all

the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons;"

Moses commanded the Israelites to **diligently** teach the God's commandments to their children.

- **Deuteronomy 6:7:** "And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

Moses commanded the Israelites to **diligently** keep God's commandments.

- **Deuteronomy 6:17:** "Ye shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, and his testimonies, and his statutes, which he hath commanded thee."
- **Deuteronomy 11:13:** "And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul,"
- **Deuteronomy 11:22:** "For if ye shall diligently keep all these commandments which I command you, to do them, to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, and to cleave unto him;"

God promised the Israelites that if they **diligently** obeyed Him then He would give them all of the promised land. (However, they didn't do that so they only received a portion of the land.)

- **Deuteronomy 11:22-24:** "For if ye shall diligently keep all

these commandments which I command you, to do them, to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, and to cleave unto him; Then will the LORD drive out all these nations from before you, and ye shall possess greater nations and mightier than yourselves. Every place whereon the soles of your feet shall tread shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the river Euphrates, even unto the uttermost sea shall your coast be."

Under the Mosaic Law, if the Israelites heard a report that a city had become idolatrous, they were required to **diligently** investigate the matter to see if it was true. (There's no indication they ever obeyed that command.) If it was true then they were to destroy the city.

- **Deuteronomy 13:12-14:** "If thou shalt hear say in one of thy cities, which the LORD thy God hath given thee to dwell there, saying, Certain men, the children of Belial, are gone out from among you, and have withdrawn the inhabitants of their city, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which ye have not known; Then shalt thou enquire, and make search, and ask diligently; and, behold, if it be truth, and the thing certain, that such abomination is wrought among you;"

Under the Mosaic Law, if the Israelites heard that someone in their midst had engaged in idolatry, they were to inquire **diligently** to verify that it was true (before punishing him).

- **Deuteronomy 17:3-4:** "And hath gone and served other gods, and worshipped them, either the sun, or moon, or any of the host of heaven, which I have not commanded;

And it be told thee, and thou hast heard of it, and enquired diligently, and, behold, it be true, and the thing certain, that such abomination is wrought in Israel:"

Under the Mosaic Law, when a judge heard a case he was to inquire **diligently** to determine if the testimony that was given to him was true.

- **Deuteronomy 19:18:** "And the judges shall make diligent inquisition: and, behold, if the witness be a false witness, and hath testified falsely against his brother;"

Moses commanded the Israelites to listen **diligently** to the priests when they instructed them how to handle leprosy.

- **Deuteronomy 24:8:** "Take heed in the plague of leprosy, that thou observe diligently, and do according to all that the priests the Levites shall teach you: as I commanded them, so ye shall observe to do."

Moses promised the Israelites that if they listened **diligently** to God's voice then He would bless them and set them on high above all the nations of the earth. (However, they didn't do that.)

- **Deuteronomy 28:1-2:** "And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God."

Moses promised the Israelites that if they listened **diligently** to God's voice then they would be blessed in the city and in field.

- **Deuteronomy 28:3:** "Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field."

Moses promised the Israelites that if they listened **diligently** to God's voice then their children, harvest, and flocks would be blessed.

- **Deuteronomy 28:4:** "Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep."

Moses promised the Israelites that if they listened **diligently** to God's voice then they would have food.

- **Deuteronomy 28:5:** "Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store."

Moses promised the Israelites that if they listened **diligently** to God's voice then they would be blessed when they left their homes, and when they returned home.

- **Deuteronomy 28:6:** "Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out."

Moses promised the Israelites that if they listened **diligently** to God's voice then He would give them victory over their enemies.

- **Deuteronomy 28:7:** "The LORD shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways."

Moses promised the Israelites that if they listened **diligently** to God's voice then He would blessing everything they set their hand to.

- **Deuteronomy 28:8:** "The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee."

Joshua commanded the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh to be **diligent** in keeping God's law.

- **Joshua 22:1, 5:** "Then Joshua called the Reubenites, and the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh, ... But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the LORD charged you, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul."

When Benhadad's servants went to see Ahab, they **diligently** observed him to see if he showed any signs that he would be merciful to Benhadad.

- **1 Kings 20:33:** "Now the men did diligently observe whether any thing would come from him, and did hastily catch it: and they said, Thy brother Benhadad. Then he said, Go ye, bring him. Then Benhadad came forth to him;

and he caused him to come up into the chariot."

In the days of Nehemiah, the Jews had a mind to work. They were willing to repair the wall around Jerusalem and they worked **diligently** to do so.

- **Nehemiah 4:6:** "So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work."

Job asked his friends to listen **diligently** to what he had to say.

- **Job 13:17:** "Hear diligently my speech, and my declaration with your ears."
- **Job 21:2:** "Hear diligently my speech, and let this be your consolations."

There are times when the wicked **diligently** search for iniquity. (In other words, they put a lot of effort into sinning.)

- **Psalms 64:5-6:** "They encourage themselves in an evil matter: they commune of laying snares privily; they say, Who shall see them? They search out iniquities; they accomplish a diligent search: both the inward thought of every one of them, and the heart, is deep."

When Asaph was troubled, his spirit **diligently** searched. (It seems he thought about the things God had done in the past.)

- **Psalms 77:6:** "I call to remembrance my song in the night: I commune with mine own heart: and my spirit made diligent search."

God has commanded us to **diligently** keep His precepts.

- **Psalm 119:4:** "Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently."

We must **diligently** pursue both understanding and knowledge.

- **Proverbs 2:3:** "Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;"

Solomon said that if we **diligently** pursue wisdom, as people pursue precious metals, then God will give us wisdom. (In other words, the Lord gives wisdom to those who earnestly seek for it and diligently seek it.)

- **Proverbs 2:3-4, 6:** "Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding."

Those who **diligently** seek after wisdom will understand every good path.

- **Proverbs 2:9:** "Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path."

We must **diligently** do good to those who deserve it. Instead of delaying we must take action immediately.

- **Proverbs 3:27:** "Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it."

We must **diligently** guard our heart.

- **Proverbs 4:23:** "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."

We must be **diligent** in our work, and not be lazy.

- **Proverbs 10:4:** "He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich."

If you want to find favor then **diligently** do what's right.

- **Proverbs 11:27:** "He that diligently seeketh good procureth favour: but he that seeketh mischief, it shall come unto him."

If you seek to rule (instead of being ruled over by others) then be **diligent**.

- **Proverbs 12:24:** "The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute."

Those who are **diligent** take good care of their possessions.

- **Proverbs 12:27:** "The slothful man roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man is precious."

The soul of the **diligent** will be filled.

- **Proverbs 13:4:** "The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat."

We must dedicate ourselves to wisdom and pursue it **diligently**.

- **Proverbs 18:1:** "Through desire a man, having separated himself, seeketh and intermeddleth with all wisdom."

If you seek wealth then be **diligent**, not hasty.

- **Proverbs 21:5:** "The thoughts of the diligent tend only to plenteousness; but of every one that is hasty only to want."

We must **diligently** seek after knowledge.

- **Proverbs 22:17:** "Bow down thine ear, and hear the words of the wise, and apply thine heart unto my knowledge."
- **Proverbs 23:12:** "Apply thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge."

There are great rewards for being **diligent**.

- **Proverbs 22:29:** "Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men."

It's good to **diligently** seek out the things that God has hidden, because doing so glorifies Him.

- **Proverbs 25:2:** "It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter."

When delegating tasks to others, continue to monitor the situation **diligently**. Don't simply delegate the task and then walk away.

- **Proverbs 27:23-24:** "Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds. For riches are not for ever: and doth the crown endure to every generation?"

If you want to have food then **diligently** work for it.

- **Proverbs 28:19:** "He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread: but he that followeth after vain persons shall have poverty enough."

Isaiah said that the watchman watched **diligently**.

- **Isaiah 21:6-8:** "For thus hath the Lord said unto me, Go, set a watchman, let him declare what he seeth. And he saw a chariot with a couple of horsemen, a chariot of asses, and a chariot of camels; and he hearkened diligently with much heed: And he cried, A lion: My lord, I stand continually upon the watchtower in the daytime, and I am set in my ward whole nights:"

God commanded the Jews to listen **diligently** to Him.

- **Isaiah 55:2:** "Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness."

God commanded the Jews to **diligently** consider pagan nations, to see if they had rejected their idols. (The point God was making was that the Gentiles didn't abandon their false gods, and yet the Israelites had rejected Him.)

- **Jeremiah 2:10-11:** "For pass over the isles of Chittim, and see; and send unto Kedar, and consider diligently, and see if there be such a thing. Hath a nation changed their gods, which are yet no gods? but my people have changed their glory for that which doth not profit."

God requires nations to **diligently** learn His ways.

- **Jeremiah 12:16:** "And it shall come to pass, if they will diligently learn the ways of my people, to swear by my name, The LORD liveth; as they taught my people to swear by Baal; then shall they be built in the midst of my people."

God told the Jews that if they **diligently** listened to Him then He would greatly bless them.

- **Jeremiah 17:24-25:** "And it shall come to pass, if ye diligently hearken unto me, saith the LORD, to bring in no burden through the gates of this city on the sabbath day, but hallow the sabbath day, to do no work therein; Then shall there enter into the gates of this city kings and princes sitting upon the throne of David, riding in chariots

and on horses, they, and their princes, the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: and this city shall remain for ever."

- **Zechariah 6:15:** "And they that are far off shall come and build in the temple of the LORD, and ye shall know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you. And this shall come to pass, if ye will diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God."

Herod **diligently** asked the wise men when the star appeared (which marked the birth of the Messiah).

- **Matthew 2:7:** "Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared."

Herod told the wise men to search **diligently** for the young child (the Messiah).

- **Matthew 2:8:** "And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also."

We must pursue the things we desire by asking God for them, by **diligently** seeking for them, and by knocking on doors to see if they'll open. (In other words, if we don't do anything to try to obtain the things that we want then we shouldn't be surprised if we never get them.)

- **Luke 11:9:** "And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you."

Jesus compared talking with sinners to a woman who lost a piece of silver and **diligently** searched for it until she found it. (He was using His encounters with sinners to reach out to them and save them.)

- **Luke 15:2, 8:** "And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them. ... Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it?"

Apollos **diligently** taught the things of the Lord.

- **Acts 18:25:** "This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John."

Those who rule over the body of Christ must be **diligent** in their office.

- **Romans 12:8:** "Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness."

We must be **diligent** in our business, and work hard in the job that we have to do.

- **Romans 12:11:** "Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;"

Even though the Corinthian church abounded in faith and knowledge, and were **diligent**, and loved the apostles, they weren't complete. Paul wanted them to be generous as well.

- **2 Corinthians 8:1-2, 7:** "Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. ... Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also."

The (unnamed) fellow Christian who Paul sent with Titus was **diligent** in many things.

- **2 Corinthians 8:22:** "And we have sent with them our brother, whom we have oftentimes proved diligent in many things, but now much more diligent, upon the great confidence which I have in you."

We must **diligently** pursue the Scriptures so that we might be blameless. (This means we must read them, study them, believe them, and do as they command.)

- **Ephesians 5:26-27:** "That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."

In order for a widow to qualify for being supported by the church, she must have **diligently** followed every good work.

- **1 Timothy 5:9-10:** "Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man. Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work."

It's wrong for women to be idle. Instead they should be **diligent**.

- **1 Timothy 5:11-13:** "But the younger widows refuse: for when they have begun to wax wanton against Christ, they will marry; Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith. And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not."

When Onesiphorous visited Rome, he **diligently** looked for Paul until he found him.

- **2 Timothy 1:16-17:** "The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus; for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain: But, when he was in Rome, he sought me out very diligently, and found me."

The life of a Christian involves actively pursuing righteousness, faith, charity, and peace. It's active, not passive, and involves **diligence** and work.

- **2 Timothy 2:22:** "Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

Paul thought that it made sense to **diligently** study the Scriptures even though he knew he was about to die. He didn't think it was a waste of time, or would accomplish nothing since his life was about to come to an end.

- **2 Timothy 4:13:** "The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments."

Christians must pursue good works carefully and be **diligent** to maintain them.

- **Titus 3:8:** "This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men."

Paul was concerned about Christians being unfruitful. He kept exhorting people to **diligently** pursue good works and bear fruit.

- **Titus 3:14:** "And let our's also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful."

All Christians must remain **diligent** and faithful unto the end.

- **Hebrews 6:11:** "And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:"

We must have faith that God will reward those who **diligently**

seek Him.

- **Hebrews 11:6:** "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

The prophets were interested in the subject of salvation. They searched **diligently** to learn more about it.

- **1 Peter 1:10:** "Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:"

Since the word of God lasts forever, we must **diligently** pursue it and obey it.

- **1 Peter 1:22, 25:** "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: ... For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."

Christians don't have the option of being ignorant. God commands us to **diligently** pursue knowledge.

- **2 Peter 1:5:** "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;"

Christians don't have the option of living in sin. God

commands us to **diligently** pursue virtue.

- **2 Peter 1:5:** "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;"

The path of a Christian is faith, virtue, knowledge, self control, patience, godliness, kindness, and love. Christians must **diligently** pursue all of these things.

- **2 Peter 1:5-8:** "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Christians who don't **diligently** pursue virtues are blind. They are in a bad place (and won't bear fruit).

- **2 Peter 1:9:** "But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins."

If Christians **diligently** pursue virtues and demonstrate them in their life then they'll never fail. (Although we're not saved by our works, the things that we do in this life reveal the true nature of our heart. If people live wicked lives then there's no good reason to believe that they're saved.)

- **2 Peter 1:10:** "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:"

Christians must **diligently** obey God's commands. The Lord requires us to be blameless.

- **2 Peter 3:14:** "Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless."