

## Diligence

**Overview:** Diligence is consistent appropriate effort over time. It is an important spiritual force, which ensures that we will receive from God the answers to our prayers and to every blessing. Diligence is closely related to the ninth part of the Fruit of the Spirit, which is self-control or temperance or moderation.

### Diligence (Webster)

1. Steady application in business of any kind; constant effort or exertion to accomplish what is undertaken; exertion of body or mind without unnecessary delay or sloth; due attention; industry; assiduity. Not idle or negligent.
2. Steadily applied; prosecuted with care and constant effort; careful; assiduous; as, make diligent search.

#### A. Results of Diligence

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| 1. God rewards those who diligently seek Him.                   | Heb 11:6             |
| 2. Diligence to apply godly virtues brings success & stability. | 2 Pet 1:4-10         |
| 3. Receive the benefits of the Kingdom with effort and zeal.    | Matt 11:12; 13:45-46 |
| 4. Diligently guarded heart yields great blessings for life.    | Prov 4:23            |
| 5. Those who continue in the truth (Word) are set free.         | John 8:31-32         |
| 6. Diligent study of the Word - approved and effective.         | 2 Tim 2:15           |

#### B. Diligence vs Sluggard/Slothfulness/Laziness

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| 1. Hand of diligent is rich, hand of slack is poor.            | Prov 10:4  |
| 2. Parents: Diligent is a blessing, slothful is a curse.       | Prov 10:5  |
| 3. Employer: Diligent is a blessing, slothful is a curse.      | Prov 10:26 |
| 4. Diligent rule, Sluggard is ruled.                           | Prov 12:24 |
| 5. Diligent is well fed, Sluggard is hungry.                   | Prov 13:4  |
| 6. Way of the diligent is easy, way of the slothful difficult. | Prov 15:19 |
| 7. Diligent takes action, slothful talks.                      | Prov 14:23 |
| 8. Diligent in his business stand before kings.                | Prov 22:29 |

#### C. Attitudes of Diligence

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| 1. Speedily and eagerly.            | Pro 22:29                        |
| 2. Effort with exertion.            | Pro 10:4; 2 Cor 8:22; 2 Pet 3:14 |
| 3. Intensity in the search.         | Heb 11:6; 1 Pet 1:10             |
| 4. Ardent zeal and intense exertion | Matt 11:12 Amp                   |

#### D. Applying Diligence

1. Diligence works with Self Control from the Fruit of the Spirit – the virtuous cycle.
2. Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matt 6:33). Proper alignment of priorities will insure success (Prov 10:22).
3. Laziness is not necessarily the lack of action but not doing what God has called you to do.
4. Thoughts of the diligent lead to prosperity (Prov 21:5). Our life moves in the direction of our most dominant thoughts.
5. Take action. Planning, dreaming and talk only take you so far. Put your plan into action and work on it daily. (Prov 14:23)
6. Plan your work and work your plan. Diligence and perseverance are the power twins of success (Prov 28:19).

**Recommendation:** Take a step today. The spiritual, physical or financial greatness that you want to achieve tomorrow begins with the diligent step you take today and again tomorrow and again the next day, etc.