

"In the beginning
was the Word,
and the Word was
with God, and the
Word was God."
—John 1:1

The Lord's Flock *Growth* DIGEST PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES



“The Importance of a Diligent Spirit”

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GS March 6, 2013

“You have commanded us to keep your precepts diligently.” (Psalms 119:4).

“Elders that are assiduous to teaching and preaching are given double honor.” (1 Timothy 5:17).

Meaning of Diligence

What is diligence? In Filipino, diligence means being “*masigasig, masipag, masikap*”. It means persistence, tenacity, tirelessness, being characterized by steady, earnest and energetic efforts. It is a biblical word that expresses the need to show great care and conscientiousness in God’s work in spiritual matters.

People who are diligent are persistent in doing and finishing the work that the Lord has given to them. Even when success seems remote, diligent people remains steadfast and assured that there will be rewards in the end. “Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up.” (Galatians 6: 9).

Diligent people are conscientious. They desire to do what is right and to do their duties thoroughly and well.

How To Be Diligent

There are three ways we can be diligent:

1. We should possess faithfulness, a fruit of the Holy Spirit.

We are required to be good stewards of everything that God has entrusted us. (1 Corinthians 4:2).

When we meet the Lord face to face, we want to hear Him say: “*Well done, my good and faithful servant.*” (Matthew 25:21). Well done means the task has been carried out successfully and done thoroughly. We should ask ourselves if we have done well the work that the Lord has assigned for us to do.

In areas that we are serving now, we should be “home before dark.” This three-word expression means being successful in our spiritual journey. While we are still alive and strong, we should strive to finish successfully our task for the Lord.

Joshua, the successor of Moses, is an example of a diligent biblical character. “As the Lord had commanded his servant Moses, so Moses commanded Joshua, and Joshua acted accordingly. He left nothing undone that the Lord had commanded Moses should be done.” (Joshua 11:15)

As written in the New Testament, the Pharisees wanted the Jews to follow hundreds of tasks but they were not diligent. “Woe to you Pharisees! You pay tithes of mint

and of rue and of every garden herb, but you pay no attention to judgment and to love for God. These you should have done, without overlooking to others. (Luke 11:42).

God does not overlook what we do not do by what we do and what is accomplished in our lives. Just like the young man in Matthew 19:20 said to Jesus "*All of these I have observed. What do I still lack?*" This rich man lacked diligence because he was not sharing his treasures with the poor.

In our own present case, even though we have already given our tithes to our Community, we should still share our resources with the needy.

2. We should not settle for something half-done.

We should not follow the example of King Saul who was an anointed man of God, but his obedience to the Lord was only half done.

There are many dangers that may affect diligence and result in half-done work. These include the following:

- a. **Mixing worldliness and spirituality** - "*Ephraim mingles with the nations, Ephraim is a hearth cake unturned*". (Hosea 7:8).

"Adulterers! Do you not know that to be a lover of the world means enmity with God? Therefore, whoever wants to be a lover of the world makes himself an enemy of God." (James 4:4).

- b. **Lukewarmness** - We should not be lukewarm to the Lord. We should remain hot and enthusiastic for God.

- c. **Complacency** - A person with a diligent spirit is not complacent. He is self-satisfied and unconcerned about others and what is happening around him.

- d. **Apathy** - Apathy is absence of emotions and enthusiasm. It is lack of interest and concern.

- e. **Slothfulness** is laziness. Let us not be lazy in praying, in studying the Bible, and in witnessing for the Lord.

3. We should be consistent and persistent in doing our tasks for God.

"However, take care and be earnestly on your guard not to forget the things, which your own eyes have seen, nor let them, slip from your memory as long as you live, but teach them to your children and to your children's children." (Deuteronomy 4:9).

Conclusion

Let us develop a diligent spirit that can help us establish a deep and personal relationship with the Lord. Let us spend time and efforts to pray, to study the word of God, and to serve Him. Let us finish what God has entrusted us to do. Let us do everything to ensure that we go "home before dark".

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