

Title: Diligence II – In Pursuit of Godliness
Pastor: Fred May
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Time: 10h30



Proverbs 12:24a

²⁴ The hand of the diligent will rule...

Definition of diligence:

- Passionate – enthusiasm with intensity
- Perfectionist – utmost attention to detail
- Productive – prolific, hard-working
- Persevering – persistent consistency

Six steps to blessing:

- Study
- Pursuing godliness
- Obedience
- Stewardship
- Victory
- Leadership

Proverbs 8:17 AMP

¹⁷ I love those who love me, and those who seek me early and diligently shall find me.

1. Stretching the appetite for Him

The diligent seeker

Hebrews 11:6

⁶ But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Hunger and thirst / driven by hunger

Matthew 5:6

⁶ Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.

Psalms 63:1, 8

¹ A Psalm of David When He Was in the Wilderness of Judah. O God, You *are* my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water.

⁸ My soul follows close behind You; Your right hand upholds me.

2. Partakers of His holiness

Hebrews 12:10, 14b

¹⁰ For they indeed for a few days chastened *us* as seemed *best* to them, but He for *our* profit, that *we* may be partakers of His holiness.

¹⁴ ... and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:

Participation in the Divine Nature

II Peter 1:3-4 NIV

³ as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, ⁴ by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust.

- The Holy Spirit makes it possible, empowers us to manifest the new nature of Christ.
- His abiding Presence works a resolve in us to not be contented with anything but God's highest and best

3. Godly Ambition

Philippians 3:12-14

¹² Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. ¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing / *do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

I Corinthians 12:31a

³¹ But earnestly desire the best gifts.

- to lavishly, abundantly equip faith with the character qualities of Christ, which is our grateful response to His grace that redeems and forgives us.
- faith, therefore, is not only a commitment to the promises of Christ, it is also a commitment to His demands - that we build, progress, grow.

4. Seven Steps into Godliness

II Peter 1:5-7

⁵ But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, ⁶ to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, ⁷ to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.

- **VIRTUE:** living courageously in the power of God, manifesting the excellence / glory of God.
- **KNOWLEDGE:** practical wisdom to deal with life / mature common sense.
- **SELF-CONTROL:** self-mastery. Literally the ability to take a grip of oneself.
- **PERSEVERANCE:** the ability to endure pain, sorrow or hardship for the sake of God. Especially strength to endure because of hope.

Hebrews 12:2

² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

I Thessalonians 1:6

⁶ And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit,

- **GODLINESS / PIETY:** the maintaining of the spiritual disciplines: solitude; prayer; contemplation / meditation / fasting / worship & thanksgiving / stewardship (votive offerings). The closet / secret life of fellowship with God.
[*eusebia* vs. *theosebia*]

Matthew 6:3-4, 6, 17

³ But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.

⁶ But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who *is* in the secret *place*; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

¹⁷ But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face

- **BROTHERLY KINDNESS / AFFECTION** (*philadelphia*): Priority of the commonwealth of the Father's family.

Galatians 6:10

¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Philippians 2:3-4 NIV

³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴ Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

- **LOVE:** God's all-encompassing tenderness:

- for the entire Body

I John 3:1-3

¹ Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. ² Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Ephesians 3:14-20

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷ that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height — ¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

- for the lost

John 3:16

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

- for the hurting

James 1:26-27

²⁶ If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion *is* useless. ²⁷ Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, *and* to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

I Peter 5:8-10

⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. ¹⁰ But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle *you*.