

**Title:** Diligence III – Diligent Obedience  
**Pastor:** Fred May  
**Date:** 10 August 2008  
**Time:** 10h30



**Proverbs 12:24a**

<sup>24</sup> 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

**Deuteronomy 28:1**

<sup>1</sup> Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth.

**A. A new covenant**

**Deuteronomy 28:47-48, 68**

<sup>47</sup> Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of everything, <sup>48</sup> therefore you shall serve your enemies, whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in need of everything; and He will put a yoke of iron on your neck until He has destroyed you.

<sup>68</sup> And the LORD will take you back to Egypt in ships, by the way of which I said to you, 'You shall never see it again.' And there you shall be offered for sale to your enemies as male and female slaves, but no one will buy *you*.

**1. A new heart**

**Jeremiah 32:39-41**

<sup>39</sup> then I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me forever, for the good of them and their children after them. <sup>40</sup> And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from doing them good; but I will put My fear in their hearts so that they will not depart from Me. <sup>41</sup> Yes, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will assuredly plant them in this land, with all My heart and with all My soul.'

**Ezekiel 11:19-20**

<sup>19</sup> Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh, <sup>20</sup> that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God.

## 2. Guard against defilement

### Proverbs 4:23

<sup>23</sup> Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it *spring* the issues of life.

### I Samuel 15:12-23

<sup>12</sup> So when Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul, it was told Samuel, saying, "Saul went to Carmel, and indeed, he set up a monument for himself; and he has gone on around, passed by, and gone down to Gilgal." <sup>13</sup> Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, "Blessed *are* you of the LORD! I have performed the commandment of the LORD." <sup>14</sup> But Samuel said, "What then *is* this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?" <sup>15</sup> And Saul said, "They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, to sacrifice to the LORD your God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed." <sup>16</sup> Then Samuel said to Saul, "Be quiet! And I will tell you what the LORD said to me last night." And he said to him, "Speak on." <sup>17</sup> So Samuel said, "When you *were* little in your own eyes, *were* you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the LORD anoint you king over Israel? <sup>18</sup> Now the LORD sent you on a mission, and said, 'Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.' <sup>19</sup> Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the LORD?" <sup>20</sup> And Saul said to Samuel, "But I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. <sup>21</sup> But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal." <sup>22</sup> So Samuel said: "Has the LORD *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, *And* to heed than the fat of rams. <sup>23</sup> For rebellion *is as* the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness *is as* iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from *being* king."

## B. A new nature

### Philippians 2:7a NIV

<sup>7</sup> but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant,

### John 12:26

<sup>26</sup> If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him *My* Father will honor.

1. unreserved submission
2. to hear from subordinate      position
3. to listen attentively
4. to respond verbally, willingly, implicitly
5. an expression of loyalty

## C. A new relationship

### Matthew 7:21-27

<sup>21</sup> Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. <sup>22</sup> Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' <sup>23</sup> And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' <sup>24</sup> Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: <sup>25</sup> and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. <sup>26</sup> But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: <sup>27</sup> and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

## 1. Equals faith

### James 2:14

<sup>14</sup> What *does it* profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?

### Hebrews 11:8

<sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

## 2. Equals love

### I John 5:3

<sup>3</sup> For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

### John 14:21, 23, 15-17

<sup>21</sup> He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

<sup>15</sup> If you love Me, keep My commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever — <sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

## 3. Knowledge of His will

### Matthew 26:39, 42

<sup>39</sup> He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You *will*."

<sup>42</sup> Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done."

### - Through Scripture

#### James 1:22, 2:14, 20

<sup>22</sup> But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

<sup>14</sup> What *does it* profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?

<sup>20</sup> But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

### - Submission to authority

#### (i) Civil

##### Romans 13:1

<sup>1</sup> Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

#### (ii) Church

##### Hebrews 13:17

<sup>17</sup> Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

##### I Peter 5:5

<sup>5</sup> Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to *your* elders. Yes, all of *you* be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

**(iii) Home****Ephesians 5:22-23**

<sup>22</sup> Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

**Ephesians 6:1-3**

<sup>1</sup> Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise: <sup>3</sup> that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.

**- Specific guidance****John 16:13-15**

<sup>13</sup> However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you. <sup>15</sup> All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare *it* to you.

**- Product of discipline****Hebrews 5:8**

<sup>8</sup> though He was a Son, *yet* He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.

**Hebrews 12:11**

<sup>11</sup> Wanneer ons getug word, lyk die tug (Elke dissiplineringslyk) op daardie oomblik nie na iets om oor bly te wees nie, maar om oor te huil. Later lewer dit egter vir dié wat daardeur gevorm (ge oefen) is, 'n goeie vrug: vrede omdat hulle gehoorsaam is aan die wil van God (die vredevolle vrug dat hulle in 'n herstelde verhouding met God leef).

**D. A new hope****1. God's 'special treasure'****Exodus 19:5**

<sup>5</sup> Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth *is* Mine.

**Leviticus 25:18-19**

<sup>18</sup> So you shall observe My statutes and keep My judgments, and perform them; and you will dwell in the land in safety. <sup>19</sup> Then the land will yield its fruit, and you will eat your fill, and dwell there in safety.

**Deuteronomy 28:1, 13-14**

<sup>1</sup> Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth.

<sup>13</sup> And the LORD will make you the head and not the tail; you shall be above only, and not be beneath, if you heed the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today, and are careful to observe *them*. <sup>14</sup> So you shall not turn aside from any of the words which I command you this day, *to* the right or the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

**2. Health and long life****Exodus 15:26**

<sup>26</sup> and said, "If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I *am* the LORD who heals you."

### 3. Blessed posterity

#### **Deuteronomy 5:29**

<sup>29</sup> Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!

### 4. Intimacy

#### **John 15:10**

<sup>10</sup> If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.