

Due Diligence

By Pastor Marvin R. Barham

Due Diligence is primarily a legal business term regarding the care someone takes in entering and maintaining the obligations of contractual agreements or covenant.

Due: owing as a debt; obligation; duty; required or expected as prescribed¹

Diligence: the attention and care legally expected or required of a person (as a party to a contract); persevering application; characterized by steady, earnest, and energetic effort²

Due Diligence simply put means you have taken as much time as necessary to think something through regarding an obligation; have counted the cost and done all you possibly can to make the best of what will be required.

I had a football coach tell me, “Son, when you leave that field, win or lose, you have to be able to know that you gave it all you had. So each game, with every down until the very end and the game is over you have to ask yourself, did I give all I had that last down, is there something more or better I could give or do this next down? Am I holding anything back from my coach or the team that could cost us this win?”

If our lives be surrendered to Christ we are dead to self and walk in the light of His obedience. He paid the price for our sin that we could not pay and redeemed us unto Himself. Thus, as a covenant people seeking to walk in the dominion of His Kingdom righteousness, it is no sacrifice to live as God requires. Most Christians do not have a problem with agreeing to this, nor desiring it, it is the steady application, the earnest effort to diligently live it that we struggle with.

I am convinced that there are generations of the church today who have no knowledge of the concept of “diligence”. Jesus demonstrated diligence to the law of God, the will of God, and the ways of God throughout His life and death.

John 9:1-7 Jesus speaks of His obligation to do the work of the Father and do it diligently. As men our time is but a day in the eyes of God thus it is important that we waste no time in doing the works of the Father while the day is ours. The method Jesus used would have caused a seeing man to be blinded but in His diligence to simply be obedient and do the work of the Father He made the blind to see.

The response of most is to question and argue that this method would have the opposite effect of the intent of seeing. They would have argued with spitting and putting mud in the man’s eyes was ignorant, foolish and would only make things worse. In Jesus’ obedience a spiritual principle is presented to us that God sees applicable to our entire lives, souls and service to Him. It is the principle of diligence. To simply do as you are asked and do it with all that you have in you; to ensure that you have done all to please God in whatever task He has set before you no matter how questionable or unpleasant it may seem.

Matthew Henry states, “Our obedience as individuals cannot merit salvation; but it is the only evidence that we are partakers of the gift of God, which is eternal life through Jesus Christ, Considering how many

¹ Merriam-Webster’s Online Dictionary; Public Domain; 2008

² Ibid

temptations we are compassed with, and what corrupt desires we have in our bosoms, we have great need to keep our hearts with all diligence. Those cannot walk aright, who walk carelessly.”³

Moses speaks to God’s people concerning the principle of diligence in **Deuteronomy 4:8-10** *8And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day? 9Only 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; 10Specially the day that thou stoodest before the LORD thy God in Horeb, when the LORD said unto me, Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and **that they may teach their children.***

Moses tells them to keep their souls (mind, will, and emotions) diligently and then he tells them why. It is in the absence of our diligence to the things of God, the seeking God, the guarding of our hearts, minds, ears, eyes, mouths, that we find ourselves in subjection to temptation and despair of the presence of God. God commands us not only to keep our souls diligently but also teach our children how to do the same. Again, Moses commands this by the authority of God in **Deuteronomy 6:6-7** *6And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7And 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.*

Throughout Scripture God uses this word in conjunction with His commandments to us in how to live in righteous covenant with Him. We are commanded to:

- **Be diligent to keep His commandments** (**Psalm 119:4** Thou hast commanded us to **keep thy precepts diligently**.)
- **Be diligent in guarding our hearts** (**Proverbs 4:23** Keep thy heart with all **diligence**; for out of it are the issues of life.)
- **Be diligent in our conflict** (**Luke 12:58** When thou goest with thine adversary to the magistrate, as thou art in the way, give **diligence** that thou mayest be delivered from him; lest he hale thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and the officer cast thee into prison.)
- **Be diligent in our growing in grace** (**2 Corinthians 8:7** Therefore, as ye abound in everything, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all **diligence**, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.; **2 Peter 1:5** And beside this, giving all **diligence**, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;)
- **Be diligent in our service to God** (**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
- **Be diligent in the integrity of our work** (**Proverbs 22:29** Seest thou a man **diligent in his business**? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men.)
- **Be diligent in seeking God** (**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**.)
- **Be diligent in our character and conduct** (**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.)

³ Matthew Henry’s Concise Commentary; www.biblegateway.com; Public Domain; 2008

- **Prove our diligence to God and men (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.)

To live without diligence in our life is to live slothfully and carelessly. To make spiritual judgments, doctrinal justifications, or anything pertaining to living a life pleasing to God without having done all due diligence is to live as a foolish Christian. To pick and choose the precepts and principles of God you wish to live by or how and when they are applicable to whatever areas of your life you so choose is dangerous to say the least. We must ensure we are in line with all of His precepts, principles and in no way are living them in contradiction one to another. We must each be diligent to live each and every moment of our lives, with every thought, word, motive, and action to please Him and Him alone. We must ensure that we have been diligent to live up to our part of the covenant He made with us and we with Him. In doing so we shall then live in the dominion He has called us to live in according to **Proverbs 12:24** *The hand of the **diligent shall bear rule**: but the slothful shall be under tribute.*

SPIRITUAL DUE DILIGENCE CHECKLIST

- **Spiritual Discipline, Integrity, and Growth of Myself**
 - Am I spending an acceptable amount of quality time in the Word of God?
 - Am I spending an acceptable amount of quality time in prayerful communion with God?
 - Am I choosing to intimately worship Him without distraction?
 - Am I listening to the Word and seeking to hear God speak to me through it?
 - Am I guarding my eyes, ears, thoughts, emotions and heart from temptations or things that would weaken the intensity of my desire for more of God?
 - Am I truly committed to identifying areas I need to grow and seeking to allow God to help me grow in them?
 - Am I truly committed to living a more pleasing life to God today and tomorrow than I did yesterday?

- **Spiritual Discipline, Integrity, and Growth of My Family**
 - Am I spending an acceptable amount of quality time in the Word with my family?
 - Am I seeking every opportunity to impart Godly principles into each of my family members?
 - Am I demonstrating the heart of Father God to my family in every area possible?
 - Does my family see my passion for the things and person of God?
 - Am I spending acceptable time with my family in teaching them to pray, to hear, and know the voice of God in their lives?
 - Am I truly committed to the righteous governing of my Family according to God's commands of dominion and impartation?
 - Am I truly committed to helping each member of my family grow in Christ, identify their gifts and callings, and preparing them to walk in them now?

- **Spiritual Discipline, Integrity, and Growth in My Service to God**
 - Am I acceptably serving God to bring increase to His Kingdom with the gifts and callings He has entrusted to me?
 - Am I managing my time and priorities in a manner that I do not rob God or neglect my part in building His Kingdom and serving the Body of Christ?
 - Am I honoring God according to His commandments with the resources He has given me?
 - Am I acceptably doing my part in the Body of Christ to further the gospel of Jesus Christ?
 - Am I a blessing to others and the leadership or do I just take and give nothing in return?
 - Am I willing to be connected and an active part in serving wherever I am needed?
 - Am I contributing to the corporate goal of seeking the presence of God in the worship or am I simply a spectator?
 - Am I adequately sharing the gospel with others outside the church?
 - Am I actively discipling another to help them grow in Christ and use their gifts and callings?
 - Am I seeking to impart righteousness into the next generation?

- **Spiritual Discipline, Integrity, and Growth in My Work**
 - Am I a blessing to my boss, supervisor, and co-workers?
 - Am I a peacemaker in the workplace?
 - Do my performance and work ethics reflect great credit upon the name of Christ?
 - Is my integrity and character in the workplace unquestionable?
 - Do I and my faith have credibility in the workplace?
 - Have I shared Christ or ministered to a co-worker?
 - Do I look for opportunities to bring increase to the workplace?
 - Do I seek to please God or just man with my work? Do I see it as a ministry?