

# Diligence

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Man's Precious Possession

# What Is Diligence?

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## □ English

- persevering and careful in work; hardworking, industrious
- done with careful, steady effort; painstaking

## □ Hebrew

- incisive, sharp, determined, eager
- quick, skillful

## □ Greek

- use speed, make effort, endeavor, be prompt or earnest
  - search out, investigate, crave
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# Diligence in the Wisdom Literature

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- Is Contrasted with
    - The Lazy Man (Prov. 10:4, 12:24, 12:27, 13:4)
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# Diligence, Not Laziness

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A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich. - Proverbs 10:4 ESV

The hand of the diligent will rule, while the slothful will be put to forced labor. -  
Proverbs 12:24 ESV

The lazy man does not roast what he took in hunting, But diligence is man's precious possession. - Proverbs 12:27 NKJV

The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied. - Proverbs 13:4 ESV

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# Diligence in the Wisdom Literature

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- Is Contrasted with
    - The Lazy Man (Prov. 10:4, 12:24, 12:27, 13:4)
    - The Hasty Man (Prov. 21:5)
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# Diligence, Not Hastiness

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The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty. -

Proverbs 21:5 ESV

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# Diligence in the Wisdom Literature

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- Is Contrasted with
    - The Lazy Man (Prov. 10:4, 12:24, 12:27, 13:4)
    - The Hasty Man (Prov. 21:5)
  - Results in
    - Riches
    - Influence
    - Plenty
    - Recognition
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# Diligence in the Wisdom Literature

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## Why diligence works

- It applies all the force of a person to one task (Eccl. 9:10)
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# Ecclesiastes 9:10 ESV

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Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might, for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going.

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# Diligence in the Wisdom Literature

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## Why diligence works

- ❑ It applies all the force of a person to one task (Eccl. 9:10)
  - ❑ It does not permit distractions or excuses to suspend or postpone effort (Eccl. 11:4)
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# Ecclesiastes 11:4 ESV

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He who observes the wind will not sow,  
and he who regards the clouds will  
not reap.

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# Diligence in the Wisdom Literature

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## Why diligence works

- ❑ It applies all the force of a person to one task (Eccl. 9:10)
  - ❑ It does not permit distractions or excuses to suspend or postpone effort (Eccl. 11:4)
  - ❑ It spends more than enough effort to account for the unknown (Eccl. 11:6)
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# Ecclesiastes 11:6 ESV

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In the morning sow your seed, and at evening withhold not your hand, for you do not know which will prosper, this or that, or whether both alike will be good.

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# Diligence in the Wisdom Literature

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## The Limits of Diligence

- Can be used for good or evil  
(Prov. 7:15)
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# Proverbs 7:15 NKJV

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So I came out to meet you, Diligently to  
seek your face, And I have found you.

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# Diligence in the Wisdom Literature

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## The Limits of Diligence

- ❑ Can be used for good or evil  
(Prov. 7:15)
  - ❑ Cannot extract us from the  
consequences of our actions  
(Prov. 1:28; Heb. 12:17)
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# Diligent Effort, But Too Late

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Proverbs 1:28 ESV - Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently but will not find me.

Hebrews 12:17 NKJV - For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.

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# Diligence in the Wisdom Literature

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## The Limits of Diligence

- ❑ Can be used for good or evil (Prov. 7:15)
  - ❑ Cannot extract us from the consequences of our actions (Prov. 1:28; Heb. 12:17)
  - ❑ Is not an end in itself (Psalm 127:2)
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# Psalms 127:2 NKJV

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It is vain for you to rise up early,  
To sit up late,  
To eat the bread of sorrows;  
For so He gives His beloved sleep.

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# Diligence in the New Testament

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We are to apply diligence to

- Repentance (2 Cor. 7:11)



## 2 Corinthians 7:11 NKJV

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For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

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# Diligence in the New Testament

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We are to apply diligence to

- ❑ Repentance (2 Cor. 7:11)
  - ❑ Caring for those in need (2 Cor. 8:7-8)
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## 2 Corinthians 8:7-8 NKJV

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7 But as you abound in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us--see that you abound in this grace also. 8 I speak not by commandment, but I am testing the sincerity of your love by the diligence of others.

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# Diligence in the New Testament

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We are to apply diligence to

- ❑ Repentance (2 Cor. 7:11)
  - ❑ Caring for those in need (2 Cor. 8:7-8)
  - ❑ Laboring for the name of God and ministering to the saints (Heb. 6:10-12)
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# Hebrews 6:10-12 NKJV

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For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. 11 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, 12 that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

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# Diligence in the New Testament

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We are to apply diligence to

- ❑ Repentance (2 Cor. 7:11)
  - ❑ Caring for those in need (2 Cor. 8:7-8)
  - ❑ Laboring for the name of God and ministering to the saints (Heb. 6:10-12)
  - ❑ Cultivating Christian graces (2 Peter 1:5,10)
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## 2 Peter 1:5-10 NKJV

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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. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ... 10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;

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# Diligence in the New Testament

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- ❑ Repentance (2 Cor. 7:11)
  - ❑ Caring for those in need (2 Cor. 8:7-8)
  - ❑ Laboring for the name of God and ministering to the saints (Heb. 6:10-12)
  - ❑ Cultivating Christian graces (2 Peter 1:5,10)
  - ❑ Studying the Scriptures (2 Tim. 2:15)
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## 2 Timothy 2:15 NKJV

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Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

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# Diligence in the New Testament

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- ❑ Repentance (2 Cor. 7:11)
  - ❑ Caring for those in need (2 Cor. 8:7-8)
  - ❑ Laboring for the name of God and ministering to the saints (Heb. 6:10-12)
  - ❑ Cultivating Christian graces (2 Peter 1:5,10)
  - ❑ Studying the Scriptures (2 Tim. 2:15)
  - ❑ Striving for Christian unity (Eph. 4:3)
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# Ephesians 4:3 NASB

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being diligent to preserve the unity of  
the Spirit in the bond of peace.

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# Diligence in the New Testament

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We are to apply diligence to

- ❑ Repentance (2 Cor. 7:11)
  - ❑ Caring for those in need (2 Cor. 8:7-8)
  - ❑ Laboring for the name of God and ministering to the saints (Heb. 6:10-12)
  - ❑ Cultivating Christian graces (2 Peter 1:5,10)
  - ❑ Studying the Scriptures (2 Tim. 2:15)
  - ❑ Striving for Christian unity (Eph. 4:3)
  - ❑ Getting to heaven (Heb. 4:11)
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# Hebrews 4:11 NKJV

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Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.

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# Diligence in the New Testament

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We are to apply diligence to

- ❑ Repentance (2 Cor. 7:11)
  - ❑ Caring for those in need (2 Cor. 8:7-8)
  - ❑ Laboring for the name of God and ministering to the saints (Heb. 6:10-12)
  - ❑ Cultivating Christian graces (2 Peter 1:5,10)
  - ❑ Studying the Scriptures (2 Tim. 2:15)
  - ❑ Striving for Christian unity (Eph. 4:3)
  - ❑ Getting to heaven (Heb. 4:11)
  - ❑ Preparing for Jesus' return (2 Peter 3:14)
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## 2 Peter 3:14 NKJV

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Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;

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# The Diligent Search

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We are to search diligently for

☐ For good (Prov. 11:27)

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# Proverbs 11:27 NASB

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He who diligently seeks good seeks favor, But he who seeks evil, evil will come to him.

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# The Diligent Search

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We are to search diligently for

- ❑ For good (Prov. 11:27)
  - ❑ For wisdom (Prov. 8:17)
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# Proverbs 8:17 NKJV

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- ☐ I love those who love me, And those who seek me diligently will find me.
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# The Diligent Search

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We are to search diligently for

- ❑ For good (Prov. 11:27)
  - ❑ For wisdom (Prov. 8:17)
  - ❑ For salvation (1 Pet. 1:10)
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# 1 Peter 1:10 NKJV

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Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you,

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# The Diligent Search

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We are to search diligently for

- ❑ For good (Prov. 11:27)
  - ❑ For wisdom (Prov. 8:17)
  - ❑ For salvation (1 Pet. 1:10)
  - ❑ For God (Heb. 11:6)
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# Hebrews 11:6 NKJV

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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.

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# The Diligent Search

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We are to search diligently for

- ❑ For good (Prov. 11:27)
  - ❑ For wisdom (Prov. 8:17)
  - ❑ For salvation (1 Pet. 1:10)
  - ❑ For God (Heb. 11:6)
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