

## Hebrews 6.11-12

### Diligence Expanded

This passage is tightly woven and tied together. It forms a knot of logic and interconnected statements that can be a bit difficult to separate and to discern fully... If you have a physical knot in a bit of cordage, one that is tight and difficult, the best way to loosen it so that you might untie it is to roll the knot around in your hand a while. This is also the best way to fully understand a compact and tightly constructed argument. Take it and roll it around in your mind to see how each idea is locked and wrapped around the other. Today we are going to start the process of unpacking this powerful bit of scripture. There is a lot here for us to consider, and much gold worth digging out and using for life. We will dive deeper in the weeks to come, but for now we need to wrestle out some fundamental truths that might have escaped our notice about our diligence. They are only the trailheads of many excellent paths, but before we can go too far down any one of them, we must understand how

they all fit together and see the source of the whole.

To do this, we must understand the flow of the thought

- ❖ Here is our fervent desire for each of you
  - Have been diligent in love - well begun...
  - Must be diligent in knowledge (full assurance)
  - Must be diligent in hope ( final target)
  - Must continue steadfastly - not becoming sluggish.
  - Must be intentional in your aim and practice
  - Imitate those who have gone before and have shown clearly the path of righteousness
  - This path is the diligence of faith, the active walking in the way
  - This path is a marathon, patience is required
  
- ❖ This path ultimately arrives at our inheritance of God's promised blessings to us

# I. DILIGENCE OF LOVE

diligent in their love - lets consider how they have been diligent in their love...

## Hebrews 10.32-34

### a. For the saints

- i. Love for one another
- ii. Patient in the face of trials
- iii. Showing solidarity with those in difficulty
- iv. These things to a large part come from the heart that loves God, for He GIVES us the love that we bear one for another.

### b. For the name of Christ (and thus for His person)

- i. Willing to suffer loss for the sake of the name of Christ
- ii. Releasing their hold on the world
- iii. Trusting in the promise of God, which honors Him above all else.

- iv. Believing that which God has promised also means believing that which God has said is true and right...
- v. The target of this belief is a living and active hope that secures our hearts unto the day of redemption.
  - 1. remember the flow of the writer of Hebrews' thought –
    - a. Same diligence as your love
    - b. To the full assurance (this is what you think)
    - c. (Full assurance) of hope (this shows the target... )
    - d. Imitate those who through faith (what you think and believe)
    - e. (Through faith) and patience (which is applied diligence over time)

## **II. THE DILIGENCE OF FAITH**

The diligence of faith is required for all who belong to Christ

- a. Notice verse 12 - "those who through faith and patience inherit..." those who inherit **MUST HAVE THIS**
- b. It is crucial, it is central, it is often clouded over with life's burdens.

### Luke 8.4-15

- i. Notice that **half** of the ones that bear no fruit begin well... they just don't persevere, they have no staying power...
- c. Because this is the diligence of faith and patience is that which is most easily lost, and often first to vanish. We can love (at least outwardly) the people around us pretty well often enough, we see them, they are important to us... that love seldom puts us too much in danger of abandoning that which **WE** want

- d. There is also the reality of inertia. We can coast on the love that once was strong for a while. This is why the scripture is so resplendently filled with men who start life well but fail in the end
  
- e. The diligence of the faith is about loving God **to the end.**
  
- f. Loving God means dying to self. It means that we no longer get to do all things that we want to do just because we want to do them and our flesh thinks that we DESERVE them...
  
- g. It means that we must put aside that which we have known and that which we have sought
  
- h. Loving God means loving that which He loves, and thinking the thoughts that He thinks, AND thinking that they are right, and true and beautiful.

- i. Loving God means clinging to Him, to His word, to His nature and to the HOPE of His promise

### III. FAITH OF THE OVERCOMER

- a. The faith that runs on inertia will lag into despair. It will fall into despondency or sinful ruin. For it lacks all of the comfort that is promised in Christ. If we are not walking in victory we are missing the fullness of the promise being realized in our lives.

#### Revelation 15.2

- i. The phrase "those who have the victory" is one word in the Greek. <nikontas> there is an English word which captures the idea - Overcomers. Victors. It is a powerful concept, a stirring truth. We are called to walk in the victory of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- b. **1John 5.4**
  - i. Victory - <nikay> the victory that is the property and purview of the overcomer IS our faith... but faith is not of you...

c. It is the gift of God

**Ephesians 2.8-9**

d. It is the victory of Jesus Christ

**1 Corinthians 15.51-58**

**1Peter 1.3**

e. That which assures us the promise of God is the completed work of Jesus Christ on the cross. That which helps us remain steadfast in this present darkness is the knowledge that God gives us, the grace that sustains us and the truth which compels us... but when we become sluggish and lose our focus we lag, we drift and we lose our effectiveness for the kingdom. Our fruitfulness wanes and our joy stagnates. God calls us to fix our eyes steadfastly on Him and to trust in the fullness of His mercy, no matter what we face in this day or in this moment.

What you believe today shapes how you face tomorrow.