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# THE SAME DILIGENCE

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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. And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promise.” Hebrews 6:10-11*

At this time I would like to primarily speak to the believers who are older in the Lord and to all new believers who have recently started their race of life and have decided to walk along with Jesus.

The writer of this pastoral letter probably was writing to the second generation of Jewish Christians who had wanted to return to Judaism due to immaturity and lack of proper knowledge of Biblical truths. He encourages other believers as well; those who were saved for a longer period of time but had obviously, along with other problems, lost their diligence either because of continual arguments, ministry, or misunderstandings and had begun to doubt God's righteousness, lost

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their hope, and become convinced that God had forgotten their past diligence and ministry.

The writer encourages the receivers of this pastoral letter and emphasizes that God is righteous and remembers *“the love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister”* (Hebrews 6:10). Although people do not often thank us or encourage us one thing is certain – God cannot forget what we have done for Him and for His saints and He will award us accordingly.

The Apostle Paul confirms it and encourages us in the same diligence toward God and people, and says: *“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”* (Galatians 6:9).

While it is true that God is righteous and remembers our past devotion to

Him, what concerns Him most is the continuity of diligence and relationship.

We must often fight to maintain devotion. Worries, difficult circumstances, and constant attacks, or even sin, may sometimes lessen perseverance in our diligence. We often see this take place among believers; many believers are devoted to Jesus but after some time lose their devotion and walk away.

Consequently, these people become religious, stiff, and insensitive toward the leadership of the Holy Spirit; they even fall into Satan’s worldly traps because their spiritual senses are not sharpened to recognize good. Bearing in mind how long they have been saved, as an example they should teach others; however, they often lose eagerness for God and must return to the beginning. *„For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.”* (Hebrews 5:12)

The writer, therefore, had a strong desire that all of us show the same

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diligence up to the end; for while God will not forget the beginning He wants us to continue the same devotion until the end in order to receive, according to the Scriptures, the following rewards:

► **1. THE SAME EAGERNESS GIVES COMPLETE SECURITY TO HOPE**

*“And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end.” (Hebrews 6:11)*

If we maintain the same eagerness we have had at the beginning of our conversion then we shall also maintain our hope until the end.

One of the main reasons why we lose hope in Lord is our failure to maintain of our relationship with Him and with others to whom we minister because we may often minister for our profit or selfish goals.

When we face problems and difficulties and have no hope it is because we do not know well the One who, as the Apostle Paul says: *“...God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:13).*

Hope is interlaced with our steady eagerness for the Lord and the ministry. No man, circumstance, or thing can give hope and help us to surmount difficulties while we are in this world. If we do not have the same devotion to God we lose our hope. However, we must maintain it until the end.

Greek word for “end” in this verse is telos. It was often said that the meaning is connected with the end concerning time; however it also directs us to the achieved goal, the completion of something, the result of earlier events.

In other words, the same eagerness enables us to come to the end of our race— eternal life; to be sure, we need hope and encouragement by God for the race can be hard. It is not possible to have hope without a steady love for

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Him and for the saints. This is one of the greatest problems with ineffective believers and churches; they lose their relationship with Christ.

▶ **2. THE SAME DILIGENCE DOES NOT MAKE US SLUGGISH**

*„... that you do not become sluggish “  
(Hebrews 6:12a)*

Greek word used for “sluggish” is *nothros*, and means a lazy, slow, sluggish and weak person; a person not capable of being active in the area of the mind and spirit.

Many such believers cannot be helped because they are lazy. They want God to do everything, without their participation if possible. It is impossible to help them because they do not want to take the necessary steps necessary for God to work in their lives.

Believers without the same devotion are sluggish and passive believers.

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They can come, somehow, and drag themselves to church but are passive and ineffective for the Lord. When, for example, they come to church for worship and prayer, they usually do not pray, worship, or sing due to their passivity and laziness. Therefore, they lose their relationship with God and their hope, which is one of the reasons for their sad and stern faces.

To be constantly diligent means to be active; clean the dust off the Bible, start reading it, memorize verses, activate your thoughts accordingly, be in relationship with the Lord in prayer, speak the Word to your colleagues at work and to your family, open your heart and raise your hands, open your mouth in worship, and fight for the freedom we have in Him.

Often pastors and believers instruct us to “wait on the Lord” in an attempt to cover their own passivity and years of inactivity in the Lord’s service.

However, waiting, in the Bible, is never passive. For example, when Jesus said to His apostles to wait in Jerusalem for “*what the Father had promised*”, he did not mean to passively wait for this

promise. They actively entered into prayer: „*These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.*“ (Acts 1:14).

After the Pentecost they were strengthened and preached the Word of God eagerly until the end of their lives, most of them being tortured to death. One thing is for sure – they neither hesitated nor were they lazy; on the contrary, they were eager and devoted Christians.

The same diligence does not make us sluggish but strengthens and always makes ready for action!

▶ **3. IN THE SAME DILIGENCE, WE IMITATE BELIEVERS WHO, BY FAITH AND PATIENCE, INHERIT THE PROMISES.**

*„... but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.“*  
(Hebrews 6:12)

How many lazy pastors and leaders live comfortable and instant-religious lives viewing faith as a resource for profit, quick solutions, or a means by which

they can inflate their wounded ego? How many believers in the church do not know what the words “sacrifice” or “die to yourself” mean?

When we were saved our examples were usually believers who left everything for Christ in order that God be glorified through them. We were reading books written by David Wilkerson, Paul Yonggi Cho from Korea, and the others who inspired our faith or ministry.

When we began losing perseverance we then started to read books about a balanced life, fitness, healthy food,

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and thus became very impatient in everything. Our models were educated people and safe systems in which there is not a lot of change. Our motto was: *"Leave me alone to live my own life"*.

Abraham, for example, did not have "his life". His motto was: "I give everything to you." He had a firm and stable faith. The Scriptures say about him: *"who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became "the father of many nations", "according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be." "… He did not waver at the promise*

**★ We need to remain steady in our diligence to Him and He will be glorified. Rather than murmuring we should read about heroes of the faith and people who gave their lives for Jesus. We should imitate those who are ready to give their lives for the benefit of others rather than those who, in their religiosity, make the cross an easier thing to bear.**

*of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform."* (Romans 4:18,20-21)

The promise God had given to him was fulfilled through Jesus Christ who came out of his descendants. So he became a father to many and, in turn, blessed the entire world. He was a man whom we should surely imitate.

Abraham had no doubt that God would fulfill His promise. Although his life was full of mistakes he made wise decisions too; he always believed in God. If he had looked to his capabilities he would have never moved, conquered the Canaan land, or founded nations.

I believe that he had the same diligence until the end of his life; he believed in God while he obediently and patiently waited for Him to fulfill His word. When we are persistent in our eagerness, we will be patient and remain steady in our call and His promises. We will not give up at the first difficulty and change churches or ministries, rather we will believe in Him that He is true and faithful.

We need to remain steady in our diligence to Him and He will be glorified. Rather than murmuring we should read about heroes of the faith and people who gave their lives for Jesus. We should imitate those who are ready to give their lives for the benefit of others rather than those who, in their religiosity, make the cross an easier thing to bear.

Religion always looks for security, comfort, and passivity. The world is full of churches in which believers remain in the past forgetting the present and future. They remain half committed and give up their full assurance of *"hope until the end."* (Hebrews 6:11).

It is crucial whom you follow and who your example is; it tells about you and your character.

The same devotion gives security to hope and faith in God's promises. God is truth embodied and therefore we should not be afraid of change. This hope we have in Him is sure as *"an anchor of the soul, and which enters the Presence behind the veil."* (Hebrews 6:19).

In which area have we become sluggish: in prayer, in Bible reading, in gathering with the saints? Are we discouraged because we have left God and begun following the examples of those who are not examples of the faith rather of doubt and selfishness? Finally, who are our friends and leaders? Are they mature believers devoted to Jesus or people who draw us away from relationship with Him and into traps of bitterness, murmuring, selfishness, lies, and doubts?

It is time we motivate ourselves in following Jesus and maintain the same diligence by which we have started; only in this will we have a steady and sure hope, and will we imitate those who, by their example, gave everything to God.

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If we maintain this same devotion, we will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the real knowledge of Jesus Christ. We shall become mature believers with sharpened senses and quality virtues, who will be capable of recognizing the difference between good and evil and at the end will have all that is necessary to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

*„But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, be*

*even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.“ (2 Peter 1:5-11)*

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