

# Diligence

2 Peter 1:5,10,11

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**Introduction:** Churches do have a few V.I.P.'s "a very involved person." But over time some V.I.P.'s disappear from the seen.

The incandescent light bulb is truly a great marvel. A little piece of metal called a filament is strung between two thick posts. These posts are then surrounded by gas in a sealed bulb made of glass. Electric current is run through both posts heating up the piece of metal which creates light. In time the filament weakens, causing the bulb to use more energy while decreasing its output, but you don't notice it until it burns out. If the bulb is hit while the filament is light, the filament stretches burning hotter and brighter, but it will burn out earlier. If the bulb suffers a crack, the filament burns rapidly, because the special gas escapes being replaced by oxygen which causes things to burn faster. When we accepted Christ as savior, we are indwelt with the Holy Spirit. We can not lose the Holy Spirit, but the filament's end can stretch a part, meaning the relationship between Christ and us widens and control of the spirit as the gas, is replaced with something else.

We need diligence more today than ever before and it starts with your heart's attitude.

## **1. WHAT IS DILIGENCE?**

A. The New Testament usage:

1. "A boxing term" (Gr. "pugne"), Mark 7:3, which both in Latin and English is a term dealing with the repetitive swirling of the hands.
2. "A labor term" (Gr. "ergasia"), Luke 12:58, which refers to the constant effort or faithful repetitiveness of work.
3. "A hospital term" (Gr. "meletao"), 1 Timothy 4:15, which refers to the persevering and intense care given to the needs of a patient.
4. "A Business term" (Gr. "spoude"), Romans 12:11; 2 Peter 1:5,10, 3:12,14 referring to the attention and care expected or required in the meticulous details of business tasks.

B. Definition of diligence:

"choosing to persevere attentively in the work you called."

## **2. WHY IS DILIGENCE SO IMPORTANT?**

Four main reasons show its importance:

A. We are commanded to have diligence in our Christian lives, (2 Peter 1:10).

B. It is our part in the Christian life, (2 Peter 1:5, "giving all" Gr. "pareisenegkantes")

means "to enter along side of" or "to make every effort to meet with.") We are too often waiting for God to do something and He is waiting for us. Keswick movement falls way short here, we do have a part in our christian life.

C. It is a part of christian growth, add to you faith growth is work. Those who are not growing and have not been growing.

D. It affects our assurance, (2 Pt. 1:10 living up to your position).

### **3. HOW IS DILIGENCE INCREASED IN MY LIFE?**

Four ingredients give a good start:

A. You need a proper motivation, (2 Peter 3:14).  
Jesus is coming, we need to do our best for Him

B. You need to be more worried about what you are doing, than what others are doing, (2 Pt. 1:10). (keep your eyes off of others)

C. You don't have to sin and be controlled by lust, (2 Peter 1:4).

D. You must make some investments in your life, (2 peter 1:5).  
(ritualism-traditionally following things because that is the only way to be spiritual  
rutualism-never changing or going further then before.

### **4. WHAT HINDERS DILIGENCE?**

There are four items: (2 Peter 1:8-10)

- A. attitudes
- B. distractions
- C. lack of vision
- D. comparisons
- E. injury
- F. health
- G. violations/sin
- H. incompetance

**Conclusion:** We possess everything needed to be successful in our Christian life, yet...

1. why do some not care or show interest in the things of the Lord yet claim salvation
2. why do some christians make church life so hard and complicated for others in their service
3. why do some christians stick their nose in other people's business when they have so much work to do in their own lives

The goal of the christian life is:

1. to be growing.
2. to be building your life spiritually
3. to be serving the Lord with your gifts.