

II Peter 3:14-18

14. Therefore, beloved, LOOKING FORWARD to these things, **be DILIGENT to be found by Him in PEACE, without SPOT and BLAMELESS;**

- **Titus 2:12-13** "Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should _____ soberly, _____, and _____ in the present age, _____ for the _____ and glorious _____ of our great _____ and Savior _____ Christ."
- **Hebrews 11:6** "But without _____ it is impossible to _____ Him; for he that comes to _____ must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that _____ Him."

Definition: "DILIGENT" - Diligent means "**steady, earnest and energetic APPLICATION and EFFORT.**" "Application" means **you NEED to APPLY God's WORD to your LIFE and situations.** There are some things in your Christian walk that **REQUIRE that kind of HARD WORK, EFFORT** and perseverance. We're not talking about working for your salvation, because **salvation is NOT of WORKS, but of grace** (Eph. 2:8-9). This is concerning **OBEYING GOD so that you LIVE a LIFE that is PLEASING to God, and you will RECEIVE His BLESSINGS** and rewards both here and in heaven. God's blessings and rewards do not come to the lazy, or procrastinators, or the double-minded, or to those who give half-hearted efforts. **God will reward your DILIGENCE**, and Jesus said it is proportionate to **HOW MUCH effort** you put into seeking God's will in your life. Mark 4:24 says, "With **the same measure** you use, which means the **amount of DILIGENCE**, effort and perseverance you put into **seeking God's will and obeying it**, the rewards or blessings will be measured back to you. Are you seeking to become more like Christ, and serious about getting rid of the SIN and character defects that **BLOCK His working in your life?** If you are, then you must read and take in the word of God, and **DILIGENTLY APPLY** it to your life.

- **Mark 4:24** "And He said to them, 'Take heed what you hear. With the _____ you use, it will be _____ to you; and to you who hear, more will be given.'"
- **II Peter 1:3-7** "As His divine power has _____ unto us _____ that pertain to _____ and _____, through the knowledge of Him Who called us to glory and virtue: whereby are given unto us exceeding _____ and precious _____: that by these (promises in God's word) you might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving _____, add to your _____ virtue (moral excellence); and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge self-control; and to self-control patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness love."

Definition: "Be DILIGENT to be found by Him in PEACE, without SPOT and BLAMELESS" - We should be "diligent" in obeying the Lord and being ready for His coming, whenever it may be. When it says "**in PEACE, without SPOT and BLAMELESS**", it means living a life that is pleasing to God, because when we are living in sin, we are NOT at PEACE with God. If and when we sin, we should immediately **confess it, and the BLOOD of Jesus CLEANSSES us (I John 1:7-9) so that we are "without spot and blameless" in God's sight.** If we are not ready for Christ's coming, and not living a life that is pleasing to God, we will be **ASHAMED at His coming.** The difference between a Believer who is walking rightly with God as

compared to one who is out of fellowship and living in sin of some kind, is that the one who has been living out of fellowship with God will miss out on rewards in heaven. If we are putting God first in our lives and living for Him, we are laying up for ourselves treasure in heaven, as Jesus said. **The one who is not living for God is NOT laying up any treasure, so he will be "ashamed at His coming" and will have little or NO rewards in heaven, but he will still BE in heaven** (Matthew 6:19-21, I Corinthians 3:12-15).

- **I John 2:28** "And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and _____ be _____ before _____ at His coming."
- **I Corinthians 3:12-15** "Now if anyone _____ on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's _____ will become manifest; for the Day (of judgment) will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's _____, of what sort it is. If anyone's _____ which he has built on it (on the foundation of Christ) endures, he will _____ a _____. If anyone's _____ is burned, he will suffer loss; but he _____ will be _____, yet so as through fire."
- **James 4:8** "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. _____ your _____, you _____; and _____ your _____, you _____."
- **I Thessalonians 5:23** "Now may the _____ of _____ Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole _____, soul, and _____ be preserved _____ at the _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Definition: "PURIFY your HEARTS, you DOUBLE-MINDED" - "CLEANSING your HANDS and PURIFYING your HEARTS" is a way of saying REPENT of your sin! **TRUE REPENTANCE means TURNING AWAY from your sin, and turning to God and doing His will in EVERY AREA of your life.** If you do not **MAKE up your MIND** to completely turn away from your sin, you may "fall back into sin" because you have reserved for yourself the "right" to go back and do those things for "comfort" or "escape" whenever things gets really tough, because **it seems "easier"** to go back to your old ways of coping with stress. **This is being "double-minded"** - repenting from sin on the one hand, and yet reserving the "right" to go back there whenever YOU feel like it.

- **James 1:7-8** "For let _____ that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a _____-minded man, _____ in all his ways."

Definition: "A DOUBLE-MINDED man" - The double-minded person is "**straddling the fence**" - trying to have "one foot" in God's kingdom, and the "other foot" in the world. It means **NOT being DILIGENT** in seeking (drawing near to) the Lord, and not being WHOLEHEARTEDLY on God's side. In Psalm 86:11-12, David asks God to "**UNITE my HEART** to fear Your name", because he knows how easy it is to have a "**divided heart**" and a **double mind**.

- **Psalm 86:11-12** "Teach me _____ way, O Lord; I will walk in Your truth; _____ my _____ to fear Your name. I will praise You, O Lord my God, with _____ my _____, and I will glorify Your name forevermore."

15-16. And account that **the LONGSUFFERING of our Lord is SALVATION** - as also our beloved brother **PAUL, according to the WISDOM GIVEN to HIM**, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to

understand, which **those who are UNTAUGHT and UNSTABLE TWIST** to their own destruction, as they do also **the rest of the Scriptures.**

- **II Peter 3:9** "The Lord is _____ slack (slow) concerning His _____, as some count slackness, but is _____ toward us, _____ willing that any should _____, but that all should come to _____."

Definition: "The LONGSUFFERING of our Lord is SALVATION" - This simply means that the longer it takes before Jesus returns, **the MORE TIME there is for PEOPLE to be SAVED!** For God to be "longsuffering" means **He is PATIENT**, but especially it means that **God is putting up with a lot of sin and wickedness in this world**, and the reason He hasn't judged the world and poured out His wrath on it yet, is because **He is waiting for more people to come to Him in salvation** through His Son Jesus Christ.

- **I Timothy 2:3-4** "For this is _____ and acceptable in the sight of _____ our Savior, who _____ men to be _____ and to come to the _____ of the _____."

Definition: "PAUL, according to the WISDOM GIVEN to HIM" - God Himself, in the person of the Holy Spirit, **gave Paul the WISDOM and the right words to say**, along with the other writers of the Scriptures, as he wrote out the word of God for us. We don't need to worry about the writings of Paul (his "epistles" - letters) being just Paul's own opinions, because the Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit inspired each one of the writers of the books we have in our Bible ("inspired" means "God-breathed"). **Paul is one of the "HOLY MEN of God" who "SPOKE as they were MOVED by the HOLY SPIRIT"** (II Peter 1:19-21).

- **II Timothy 3:15-16** "And that from a child you have _____ the _____, which are able to make you _____ unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All _____ is _____ by _____ of _____, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."
- **II Peter 1:19-21** "We also have the prophetic _____ made more _____, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts: knowing this first, that _____ prophecy of _____ is of any _____ interpretation, for prophecy never came by the _____ of _____, but holy _____ of God _____ as they were _____ by the _____."
- **Ephesians 3:3-5** "How that by revelation He made _____ to _____ the _____ (as I wrote before in a few words, by which, when you read, you may understand my _____ in the _____ of Christ), which in other ages was not made _____ to the sons of men, as it has _____ been _____ by the _____ to His holy _____ and _____."

Definition: "The PROPHETIC WORD made MORE SURE" - The King James Version translates it "**a MORE SURE word of prophecy.**" You need to **BASE your FAITH on the written word of God, which is "MORE SURE" than anything else**, especially where God promises that He will never leave you or fail you, and that His word holds true through every problem and storm of life. Peter, in II Peter 1:19-21, after describing the vision of seeing Christ in His transfiguration and hearing the voice of God from heaven, says that "**We have a MORE SURE word of prophecy!**" What could be more sure than seeing a vision of Jesus in all His glory, and hearing the voice of God the Father coming down from heaven? Well, **Peter goes on to say that what**

is **"MORE SURE"** than visions and voices is the **WRITTEN** word of God, the **Scriptures!** God has given us His **WRITTEN WORD** ("Scripture" means the **WRITTEN** word of God), which was originally given to holy men of God by the Holy Spirit. We must judge and **test all so-called prophecies, visions, voices and emotional experiences against the WRITTEN truth of God's holy word!** Anything else will open us up to false teaching, false prophets, demonic deception and spiritual "shipwreck" and heartbreak. No, not losing your salvation, as that can't happen, but it could allow Satan to get you sidetracked and made ineffective for any real service to God.

- **I John 5:13** "These things have I _____ unto you that _____ on the name of the Son of God; that you may _____ that you have eternal life, and that you may believe on the name of the _____ of _____."

Definition: "Those who are UNTAUGHT and UNSTABLE TWIST" - Those who do not know the word of God, **who are DOUBLE-MINDED and UNSTABLE**, tend to take the Scriptures out of context and **"twist" them to make them say whatever they want.** All kinds of cults and false religions have started from someone twisting the Scriptures "to their own destruction" and to the destruction of their many followers.

17-18. You therefore, beloved, since you know these things beforehand, **BEWARE lest you also FALL from your own STEADFASTNESS**, being led away with the error of the wicked; but **GROW in the GRACE and KNOWLEDGE of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.** To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

- **Revelation 2:5** "Remember therefore from where you have _____; _____ and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place - _____ you _____."

Definition: "BEWARE lest you also FALL from your own STEADFASTNESS" - Steadfast means to be firm, fixed, settled, established, not changing and not fickle. To "fall" in this context does not mean to become unsaved (that can't happen, anyway), but merely **to DRIFT AWAY from our firm resolution to follow Christ and PUT HIM FIRST in our life, and to become wishy-washy and COMPROMISE** with the world.

- **Hebrews 2:1** "Therefore we must give the more _____ heed (pay attention) to the things we have heard, lest we _____."
- **Luke 9:23-25** "And He said to them all, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him DENY himself, and take up his cross DAILY, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake, the same will save it.'"

Definition: "GROW in the GRACE and KNOWLEDGE of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" - **AFTER a person has been born again and MADE a new creation in Christ**, he or she needs to grow and mature in Christ. Each one of us is responsible for our own GROWTH, and God does not want us to STAY spiritual BABIES forever! He wants us to GROW and MATURE in Christ, but it doesn't happen automatically. YOU must **FEED your re-born SPIRIT with spiritual food, the WORD of GOD**, in order to GROW. The SOUL and SPIRIT are closely linked together, so you must also **renew your MIND**, which is part of your SOUL. You will truly see **spiritual GROWTH** and you will be TRANSFORMED into the likeness of Jesus Christ, as you renew your mind with the word of God.

- **I Peter 2:2** "As newborn _____, desire the pure _____ of the _____, that you may _____ thereby."

- **Romans 12:1-2** "And do not be conformed to this world, but be _____ by the _____ of your _____ that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect _____ of _____."