

II Peter 1:5-10

5-8. But also for this very reason **GIVING ALL DILIGENCE, ADD to your FAITH** virtue (moral excellence); and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge self-control; and to **self-control** perseverance (patience); and to perseverance **godliness**; and to godliness brotherly **kindness**; and to brotherly kindness **love**. For if these are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor **unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**"

- **Hebrews 11:6** "But without _____ it is impossible to _____ Him; for he that comes to _____ must _____ that He is, and that He is a _____ of them that _____ seek Him."
- **Colossians 1:10** "That you may have a walk _____ of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being _____ in every good work and increasing in the _____ of God."

Definition: "GIVING ALL DILIGENCE" - The dictionary defines **being diligent** as "characterized by steady, earnest and **energetic application and EFFORT**" and **DILIGENCE** as "persevering application." There are some things **in your Christian walk that require that kind of EFFORT** and perseverance, and you need to APPLY God's word to your life and situations. 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 our spiritual growth, and the BLESSINGS of God, and rewards both here and in heaven. The blessings and rewards do not come to the lazy, or procrastinators, or the double-minded, or to those who give half-hearted efforts. **Our good works should be EVIDENCE** to the world around us that we belong to Jesus Christ, and that we are His own special people.

- **James 1:22-25** "But be _____ of the _____, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a _____ of the _____ and _____ a _____, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and _____ in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a _____ of the _____, this one will be _____ in what he does."
- **James 2:18 & 20** "But someone will say, 'You have _____, and I have works.' Show me your faith without your works, and I will _____ you my _____ BY my works." "But do you want to know, O foolish man, that _____ without _____ is dead?"

Definition: "ADD to your FAITH" - Is faith alone in Jesus Christ enough to save you? Yes, of course it is, but the Christian life does not end there. **You are to "ADD to your faith"** certain things listed in these verses. 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**. 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.

- **Mark 4:24** "And He said to them, 'Take heed what you _____. With the _____ measure you use, it will be _____ to you; and to you who hear, _____ will be given.'"

Definition: "VIRTUE; KNOWLEDGE; SELF-CONTROL; PERSEVERANCE; GODLINESS; BROTHERLY KINDNESS; and LOVE" - Verse 8 says, "For if these are

- **Ephesians 5:25-26** "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also _____ the _____ and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify and _____ it with the _____ of _____ by the _____."
- **Ezekiel 36:25** "Then I will sprinkle _____ on you, and you will be clean; I will _____ you from all your filthiness and all your idols."
- **Titus 3:5** "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He _____ us, through the _____ of regeneration (NEW BIRTH) and renewing of the Holy Spirit."

Definition: "Who LACKS these things is SHORTSIGHTED, even to BLINDNESS"
 - Just as the rich young man in Matthew 19 thought he had done everything necessary in keeping God's commandments, and was **BLIND to his own shortcomings**, we can also **become SHORTSIGHTED or BLINDED to our LACK of the qualities that God wants us to develop**. These qualities are the characteristics of Jesus Christ (also known as the "fruit of the Spirit"), and that is God's plan for us - to conform us to the image of His Son, Jesus Christ.

- **Revelation 3:2-3 & 15-19** "Be _____, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die for I have _____ found your works perfect before God. Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and _____. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you." (Verses 15-19) "I know your _____, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of My mouth. Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' - and do _____ know that you are _____, miserable, poor, _____, and naked - I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and _____ your _____ with eye salve, that you may _____."
- **Matthew 19:16-22** "Now behold, one came and said to Him, 'Good Teacher, what _____ shall I do that I may have _____ life?' So He said to him, 'Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, _____ the _____.' He said to Him, 'Which ones?' Jesus said, "'You shall not _____', 'You shall not commit _____', 'You shall not _____', 'You shall not bear false witness.'" "Honor your _____ and your _____," and "You shall _____ your _____ as yourself." The young man said to Him, '_____ these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still _____?' Jesus said to him, 'If you want to be _____, go, sell what you have and give to the _____, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow _____.' But when the young man heard that saying, he went away _____, for he had great possessions."

10. Therefore, brethren, be even more **DILIGENT to make your CALLING and ELECTION sure** for if you do these things **you will NEVER STUMBLE**.

- **Romans 11:29** "For the gifts and the _____ of _____ are irrevocable (can't be taken back)."
- **I Thessalonians 1:3-4** "Remembering without ceasing your work of _____, labor of _____, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, knowing, beloved brethren, your _____ by God."
- **II Timothy 1:8-9** "Who has saved us and _____ us with a _____, not according to _____,

but according to His own _____ and grace which was _____ to us in Christ Jesus before time began."

Definition: "Be DILIGENT to make your CALLING and ELECTION sure" - "CALLING and ELECTION" means that God has chosen us to be in His family, not the other way around - that we chose to come to God. Of course, we had to say "Yes" to His calling and choosing, because we have free will, but it is all God's doing, not ours. God has "called us" in that He has chosen us and has a plan for our lives **according to His own great purpose**. We will never be truly happy until we bring our lives into conformity with **His CALLING and PURPOSE for us**. In Ephesians 1:5 it is called "being **PREDESTINED**" and in **I Peter 1:2** it is called being **ELECT**. Not only has God CHOSEN US before the world existed, but He KNEW beforehand (Aforeknowledge") how He would save us through the death of His own Son, before He even created man or before man sinned. To "**Be DILIGENT to make your CALLING and ELECTION sure**" simply means that we need to examine our lives to be sure we're on the right track with God's plan that He has for us.

- **II Corinthians 13:5-6** "_____ yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. _____ yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? - unless indeed you are _____. But I trust that you will know that you are _____ disqualified."
- **I Peter 1:2** "_____ according to the _____ of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ."
- **Romans 8:29-31** "For whom He foreknew, He also _____ to be conformed to the _____ of His _____, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. For whom He foreknew, him He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of _____, that He (Jesus) might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover, whom He predestined, these He also _____, whom He _____, these He also _____, and whom He justified, these He also _____."
- **I Corinthians 1:26-29** "For you see your _____, brethren, that not many _____ according to the flesh, not many _____, not many _____ are _____. But God has chosen the _____ things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the _____ things of the world to put to _____ the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world, and the things which are _____ God has _____."

Definition: "You will NEVER STUMBLE" - It is NOT our own goodness or works that have saved us or that KEEP us saved - it is the SAVING power of God and the KEEPING power of God. Since God chose us apart from any goodness of our own, **He is able also to KEEP us from stumbling**. Jesus has promised to hold us and keep us safe in His hands and in the Father's hands until we get to heaven, so we will never "stumble" in the sense of losing our salvation. Also, if we have these qualities in our life, it will make our life more fulfilling and spiritually successful here on earth.

- **Jude 24-25** "Now unto _____ who is able to _____ you from _____, and to present you faultless (without fault ,blame or sin) before the presence of His glory with exceeding _____, to the only wise God our Savior..."
- **John 10:27-29** "_____ Sheep hear _____ voice, and I know them, and they _____ Me. And I give them _____ life, and they shall _____ perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father who has _____ them to _____, is greater than all; and _____ is _____ to snatch them out of My Father's hand."