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MINISTRIES®

THE POWER OF DILIGENCE

Teaching Notes by Joyce Meyer

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THE POWER OF DILIGENCE

I. How Diligence Affects Your Finances

A. **Proverbs 21:5** – *The thoughts of the [steadily] diligent tend only to plenteousness, but everyone who is impatient and hasty hastens only to want.*

1. **The individual who is impatient and wants to get everything without going through the process will always have want and lack in their life.**

B. **Proverbs 10:4** – *He becomes poor who works with a slack and idle hand, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.*

C. Proverbs is a book of wisdom – a book of principles that usher one into the best God has to offer when observed respectfully.

1. If Proverbs states that a diligent person will have plenty and be rich, then we should find out what diligence is and how to be diligent **IF** we desire plenty and riches.

D. Diligence/diligent/diligently (defined/Webster's 1828) – Steady application in business; constant in effort or exertion to accomplish what is undertaken; attentive; industrious; not idle or negligent. Steadily applied; not carelessly or negligently.

(Vine's/Hebrew/Greek) – “A working,” is indicative of a process. Business; gain gotten by work, endeavor, pains, earnestness, and zeal. To hasten to do a thing [not procrastinating or putting it off till later]; to attend to carefully.

1. **A diligent person sees what needs to be done; and they do it, and do it, and do it until they get the desired result.**

2. **They don't stop because they get tired of doing it, they don't stop because nobody else is doing it, they don't stop because it is no longer popular, and they especially don't stop because it is taking a long time to get results.**

E. Everyone who is impatient and hasty hastens only to want.

1. We see more and more people all the time who don't want to wait for anything. They think they are being oppressed if they are not promoted and making big money very shortly after starting on the job.
2. If they don't get what they want fairly quickly, they become disgruntled and start strife. They feel they are being mistreated, overlooked, not appreciated, and taken advantage of.
3. Many have the attitude, "If you don't give me what I want, I will find someone who will." **I QUIT!! is their brave way of handling life's difficulties.**

F. We are finding that some people overspend and then get angry with their employer because they have financial pressure. "You are not paying me enough to live on" is what they say and what they tell others.

1. There is more to prosperity than giving an offering and confessing a few prosperity Scriptures.
 - a. He became poor that we might be made rich.
 - b. My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.
 - c. Beloved, I would above all else that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers.
 - d. God delights in the prosperity of His children.
 - e. God will prosper you and your children more and more.

- f. Give and it shall be given to you.
- 2. These Scriptures are all true, but it is also true that ONLY A DILIGENT MAN PROSPERS.
 - a. You must be DILIGENT in giving.
 - b. DILIGENT in confessing the Word
 - c. DILIGENT with your current level of finances
 - Pay your bills (on time); don't get into debt for things you can do without. Learn to wait and save, then pay cash for things (especially luxury items).
- G. People often expect the same pay as someone with twelve years of seniority.
 - 1. Length of service is not taken into account.
 - 2. Character is not taken into account.
 - 3. Whether the individual is a high or low maintenance employee is not taken into account.
 - 4. Tardiness and absenteeism are not taken into account.
 - 5. The spirit is "*gimmee, gimmee, gimmee* – me, me, me."
- H. When I was young, people ALWAYS started at the bottom and WORKED their way to the top.
 - 1. It was expected and actually enjoyed. It was accomplishment and excellence in work that people were proud of.
- I. Today we deal with thousands of dissatisfied people. I believe much of the dissatisfaction comes from the fact that people have lost sight of the qualities that are really important.

II. The Soul Of The Diligent Shall Be Fat.

- A. **Proverbs 13:4**
- B. If God has created us to function a certain way, we can never be satisfied inside unless we function that way.
- C. Everything in life is a process – that is the way God has arranged things.
 - 1. Pregnancy and birth is a process.
 - 2. Growing up physically and spiritually is a process.
 - 3. Education and learning is a process.
 - 4. Why would promotion or advancement on the job or in ministry be any different?
- D. We need to go through the process – **the process is what makes the end result enjoyable.**
 - 1. I was GIVEN a doctorate degree from Oral Roberts University. I appreciated it, but it did not mean as much to me as it would have if I had gone to school four years to get it. Why? Because I did not go through the process.
 - 2. From glory to glory, little by little, day by day – THIS IS GOD’S WAY!
- E. **II Peter 1:3-15** – Paul exhorts the people in diligence and tells them he intends to be diligent to remind them to be diligent.
 - 1. Here we clearly see “the process.”

III. Diligence In Ministry

- A. **II Peter 1:10** (KJV) – . . . *give diligence to make your calling and election sure . . .*

1. Amplified – Be solicitous and eager to make your calling sure.
 - a. Solicitous (defined) – Concerned, eager, full of desire, very careful: **Meticulous**.
 - b. Meticulous – Paying attention to the details.

- B. **Some people want a ministry, but not the work of the ministry.**
 1. They want the attention, the respect, and the “showy” part of ministry.

- C. **Deuteronomy 28:8, 12** – God will bless all that you **undertake** and the **work** of your hands.
 1. God is not able to bless nothing. He gives us “seed to sow.” He is the Lord of the Harvest, but we are the lords of the seed.
 2. Our work and effort, our diligence and steadfastness are seeds that we sow.
 3. God cannot bless laziness, procrastination, murmuring, self-pity, complaining, strife, resentment, or bitterness.
 4. **Be diligent and work hard, then God will bless you – even if your boss won’t!!**

God will open a door, make a new door, give you favor, get you a great job offer, etc.

- D. A successful ministry is built on God’s will and calling, the Anointing of the Holy Spirit, and **good sound business principles**.
 1. Remember, diligence is defined as “business.”

- E. **Proverbs 22:29** – *Do you see a man diligent and skillful in his business? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men.*
 1. People who are diligent get promoted; they gain honor and respect.

- F. There is a “business” side to every profession.
1. Being a wife (**Proverbs 31:10-31**) – This woman had a great marriage because she **DILIGENTLY WORKED** at it.
 - a. You will not have a good marriage if your house is dirty, you are sloppy, you write checks and don’t put them in the checkbook, forget to pick up your children from baseball practice, run around with your friends day after day, expect the family to eat fast food because you don’t want to cook, etc.
 - b. I realize some adjustments need to be made if the woman also works outside of the home; but I am showing a principle, not making it a law.
 2. Being a husband requires **DILIGENCE**.
 - a. Taking care of things around the house
 - b. Spending time with the wife and kids, even though you are tired after a day at work
 - c. Being a good provider
 - d. Being the “spiritual” head of your home
 - e. **ENCOURAGING** your wife and **UNDERSTANDING** her
 3. Doctor, lawyer, armed forces, factory worker, policeman, fireman, insurance salesman, car salesman, etc.

Whatever you want to be in life, find out the requirements and begin to **DILIGENTLY do them.**

IV. The Fruit Of Impatience And Haste

- A. People that are in a big hurry are always in some kind of trouble.

- B. **Ecclesiastes 5:2-4** – *Be not rash with your mouth . . .*
1. A dream comes to pass with much business and painful effort.
 2. Don't vow a vow and then not pay it.
 3. It is "easy" to say, "I'll do a thing" – but only the "diligent" do it.
- C. **Proverbs 21:5** – The man who is hasty and impatient always has want.
- D. **Proverbs 29:20** – See a man rash with his words, there is more hope for a fool than for him. Some people are too hasty to say, "I quit."
- E. **I Corinthians 4:5** – *So do not make any hasty or premature judgments . . .*
1. Sometimes we judge people too quickly. We write them off and lose out on having a good friend.
 2. Sometimes we judge a job, a city, a church, a school, etc. too quickly.
 3. We see people move from other states to work with Joyce Meyer Ministries. **Some of them give up and go home when the PAIN OF TRANSITION begins.**
 - a. It takes TIME to get adjusted to new things.
 - b. People usually have "soul ties" to things they have left behind. **ARE YOU GOING TO ALLOW YOUR SOUL TO RULE YOU FOREVER?**

V. **Remain Diligent During Chastisement From God.**

- A. **Hebrews 12:5-12** – Maturity requires chastisement.
- B. Don't faint and give up during God's dealings.

1. **Galatians 6:9** – Be not weary in well doing for in due season you shall reap **IF** you faint not.
- C. We see many people who come to work in “ministry” fail to realize that they will have to change in order to have the privilege of working for God.
1. God starts dealing with people in many areas of their lives.
 - a. Attitude, excellence, what they do with their mouth, personal hygiene, keeping their automobile clean, being on time, telling the absolute truth in all things, avoiding strife at all costs, walking in the Fruit of the Spirit, using wisdom in how they dress, receiving correction graciously, etc.
 - b. God dealing with us often means He will work through some authority in our life.
- D. It is time to stop blaming others when we feel the pain of chastisement.
1. We watch people find fault with us quite frequently because **they** don’t want to come up higher.
 2. Suddenly we are too strict, not being fair, or getting into areas that are none of our business (for example: telling an employee to keep their car clean).
- E. When we work in ministry, everything we do reflects on God.
1. When we have a bumper sticker or wear a Jesus pin, our actions reflect on God.

VI. Diligent People Finish What They Start.

- A. **Hebrews 6:11** – Show the same diligence all the way through so you can realize and enjoy the development of your hope in the end.
1. Notice that our hopes have to be developed through diligence.

- B. People must be severely tempted to “give up.” We sell a single tape entitled “NEVER GIVE UP,” and it is one of our top-selling tapes.
- C. **Acts 20:24** – Paul said his goal was to “finish his course with joy.”
1. Learn to enjoy the journey.
 2. Don’t be in such a hurry to get to the end.
 3. Learn to enjoy being diligent. It builds character in us!!

