

2 Timothy 2:15; Hebrews 6:11; 2 Peter 1:5-12; 3:14

WALKING IN HIS STEPS SERMON SERIES: GROWING IN CHRIST

Where We Are Going

- 1. What Becoming A Christian Is All about
- 2. What We Have In Christ
- 3. Increasing In The Knowledge of God
- 4. Standing Against Evil Forces
- 5. Giving All Diligence To Grow
- 6. Bearing Fruit That Honors God
- 7. Growing By Serving In The Body
- 8. Living For Heaven Keeping Our Focus

Spiritual growth is a divine requirement for every believer - (We are free moral agents)

The Word of God is the divine provision for spiritual growth.

We never stay the same – we are either growing spiritually – or we are growing weaker!

2 Timothy 2:15 (NKJV) 15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Hebrews 6:9-12 (NKJV)

⁹ But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner. ¹⁰ 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. 11 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, ¹² that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

2 Peter 1:3-11 (NKJV)

³ as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

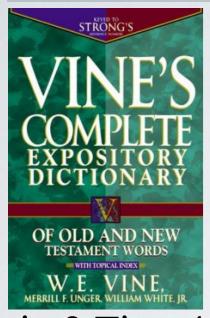
2 Peter 1:3-11 (NKJV)

⁵ But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, ⁷ to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:3-11 (NKJV)

⁹ For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. 10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

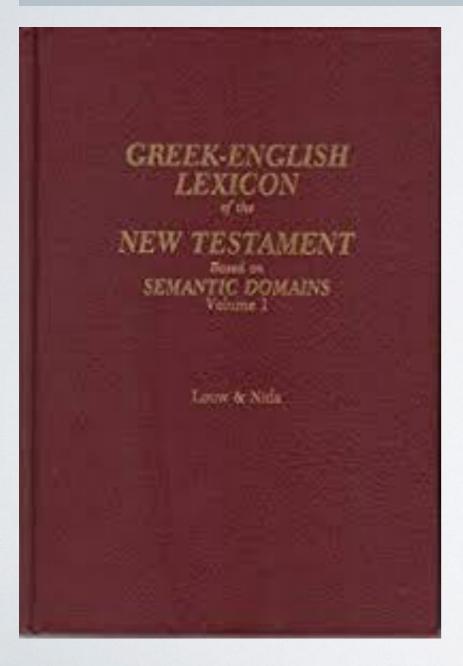
To Define Be diligent to present yourself approved to God



1. spoudazo (σπουδάζω, 4704) has meanings corresponding to A, No. 2; it signifies "to hasten to do a thing, to exert oneself, endeavor, give diligence"; in Gal. 2:10, of remembering the poor, kjv, "was forward," rv, "was zealous"; in Eph. 4:3, of keeping the unity of the Spirit, kjv "endeavoring," rv, "giving diligence"; in 1 Thess. 2:17, of going to see friends, "endeavored";

in 2 Tim. 4:9; 4:21, "do thy diligence"; in the following the rv uses the verb "to give diligence":2 Tim. 2:15, kjv, "study"; Titus 3:12, kjv, "be diligent"; Heb. 4:11, of keeping continuous Sabbath rest, kjv, "let us labor"; in 2 Pet. 1:10, of making our calling and election sure; in 2 Pet. 1:15, of enabling believers to call Scripture truth to remembrance, kjv, "endeavour"; in 2 Pet. 3:14, of being found in peace without fault and blameless, when the Lord comes, kjv, be diligent. See endeavor, forward, labor, study, zealous.¶

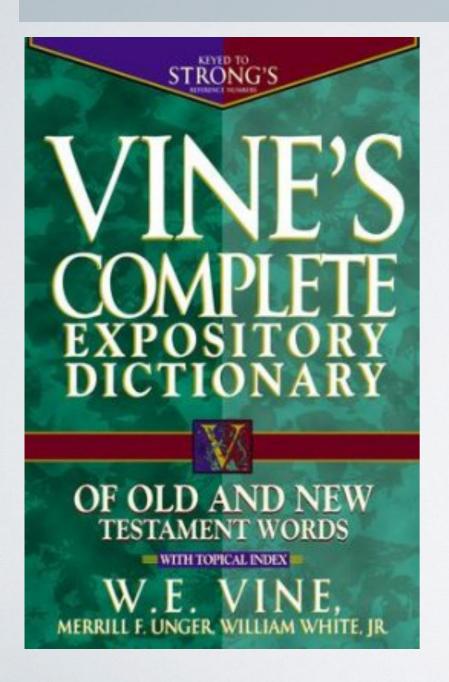
To Define Be diligent to present yourself approved to God



68.63 σπουδάζω b ; σπουδή b , ης f: to do something with intense effort and motivation—'to work hard, to do one's best, to endeavor.' σπουδάζω^b: σπουδάζοντες τηρεῖν τὴν ἑνότητα τοῦ πνεύματος 'do your best to preserve the unity which the Spirit gives' Eph 4:3. σπουδή^b: ὁ προϊστάμενος ἐν σπουδῆ 'whoever has authority must work hard' Ro 12:8.

To Define

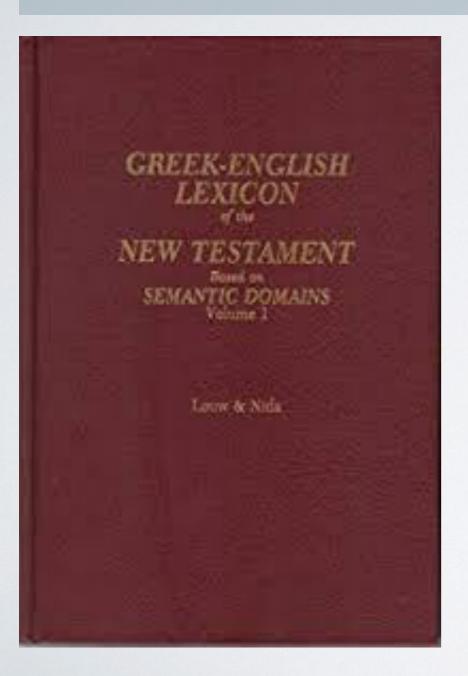
giving all diligence, add to your faith



2. spoude (σπουδή, 4710), primarily "haste, zeal, diligence," hence means "earnest care, carefulness," 2 Cor. 7:11-12; 8:16 (rv, "earnest care," in each place). Merimna conveys the thought of anxiety, spoude, of watchful interest and earnestness. See business, diligence (A, No. 2), earnestness, forwardness, haste.

To Define

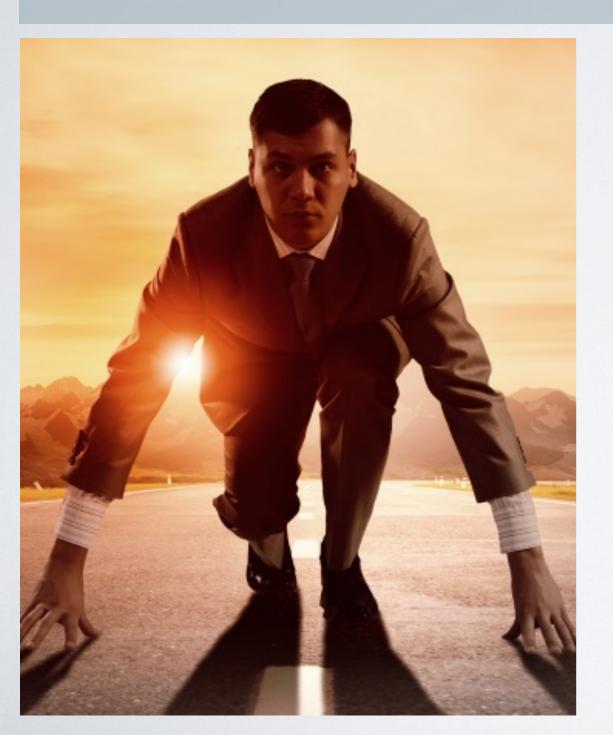
giving all diligence, add to your faith



68.64 σπουδήν πᾶσαν παρεισφέρω: (an idiom, literally 'to bring every effort to') to do one's very best in attempting to do something—'to do one's best, to make every effort to, to try as hard as possible.' σπουδήν πᾶσαν παρεισενέγκαντες έπιχορηγήσατε έν τῆ πίστει ύμῶν τὴν ἀρετήν 'do your very best to add goodness to your faith' 2 Pe 1:5. In some languages it may be almost impossible to speak of 'adding goodness to faith.' However, an appropriate equivalent of this expression in 2 Pe 1:5 may be 'do your best to be good as well as to believe.'

To Define

giving all diligence, add to your faith



DILIGENCE is primarily an attitude which leads to an action. Diligence means to do something with intense effort and motivation, with quick movement and is in opposition to the attitude of slothfulness. The individual who is diligent is eager to do something and ready to expend the necessary energy and effort.

Necessary Prerequisites

- You have to recognize the need Rom 1:18-3:23; Heb. 5:12-6:12; 2 Pet 1:5-11
- You have to genuinely believe in the process and that your efforts will result in achieving your goals Phili. 3:3-14
- You have to CONTINUE to do the things necessary to achieve James 1:22,23; 1 Tim 4:7-11; etc.

Necessary Prerequisites

1 Timothy 4:7–11 (NKJV)

⁷ But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness. 8 For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come. ⁹ This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. ¹⁰ For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. ¹¹ These things command and teach.

The Principle



- He who has a slack hand becomes poor, But the hand of the diligent makes rich — Prov. 10:4
- The hand of the **diligent** will rule, But the lazy man will be put to forced labor. Prov. 12:24
- The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing; But the soul of the diligent shall be made rich. — Prov. 13:4
- In all **labor** there is profit, But idle chatter leads only to poverty. Prov. 14:23
- The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, But those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty. — Prov. 21:5

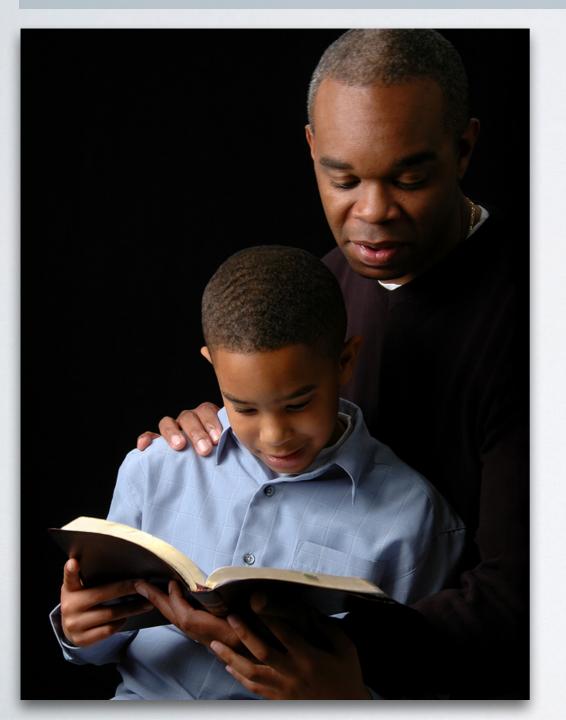
The Principle



Galatians 6:7–10 (NKJV)

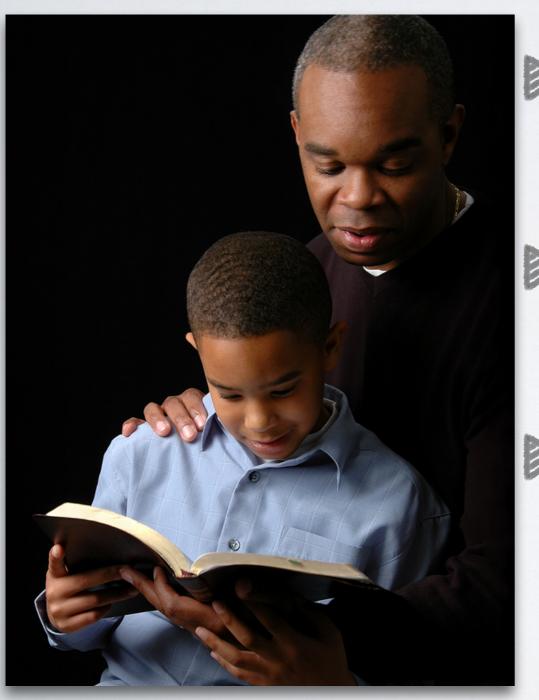
⁷ Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. 9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. ¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Necessary ACTIONS



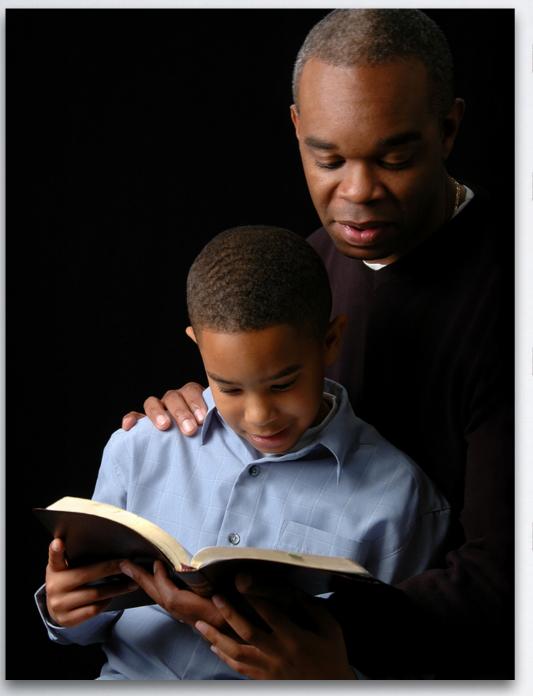
- "So take diligent heed to yourselves to love the Lord your God" Jos 23:11
- "Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life." Pr 4:23
- Keep our focus on Christ and the goal, TRUSTING HIM — Heb. 12:1-4

Necessary ACTIONS



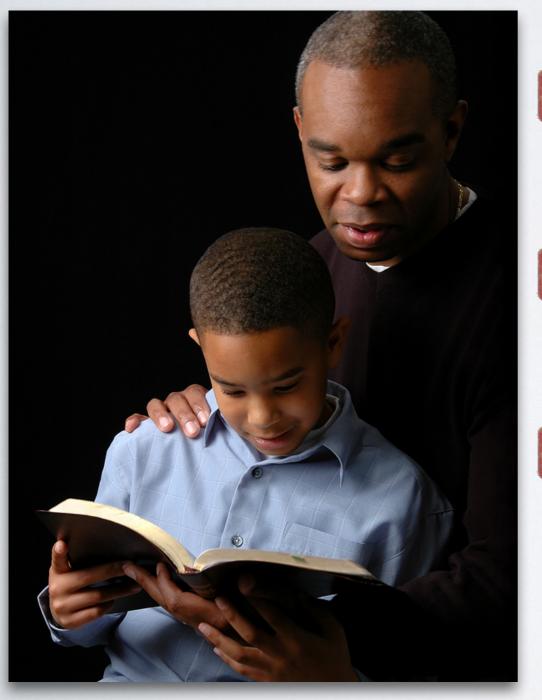
- Purpose Mature Christians do not just happen - they are made - Jos. 24:15; Mat. 6:33
- Commitment Can't be double minded 1 Kings 18:21; Acts 11:23; Mat 6:33
- Continued pursuit No shortcuts - Takes time, great effort and patience - 1 Cor. 15:58; Col. 1:23

2 Peter 1:3-11

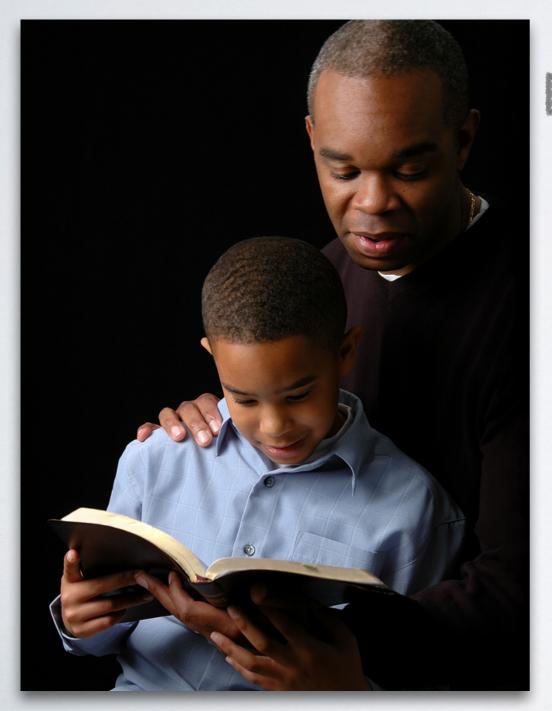


- God has given us what we need to grow into fruitful Christians (1:1-4)
- Great effort is required on our part in order to be fruitful Christians (1:5,10)
- The reward security & entrance into God's everlasting kingdom (1:8,11)
- If we fail to grow we will fall & be in danger of being eternally lost (1:9; 2:20-22)

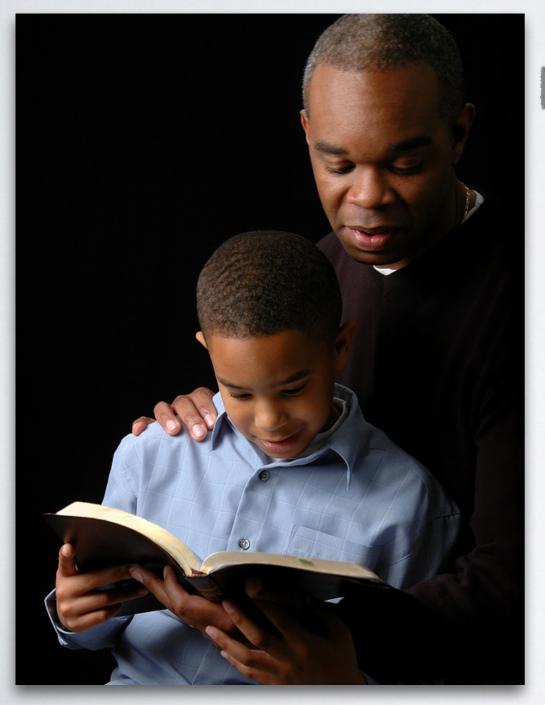
ADD TO YOUR FAITH - Heb. 11:1; Rom. 10:17



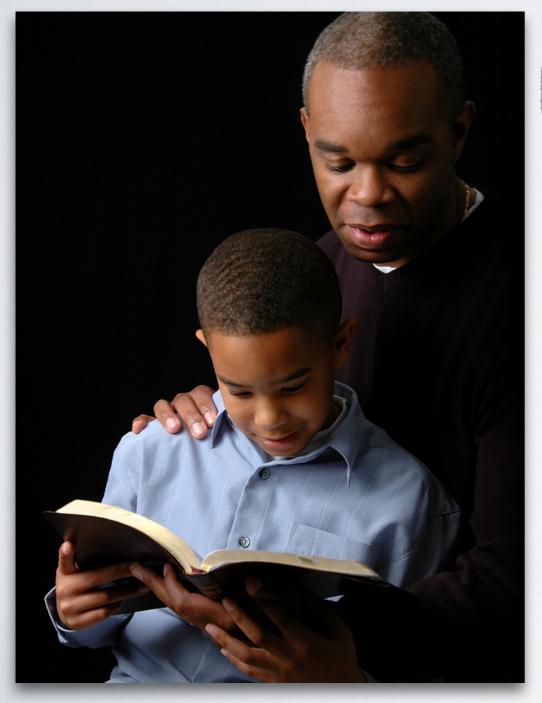
- Faith is the foundation Heb. 11:1, 6
- Faith is the motivation 2 Cor. 5:7; Gal 2:20
- Faith is to GROW Luke 17:5; 2 Ths. 1:3; Rom. 10:17



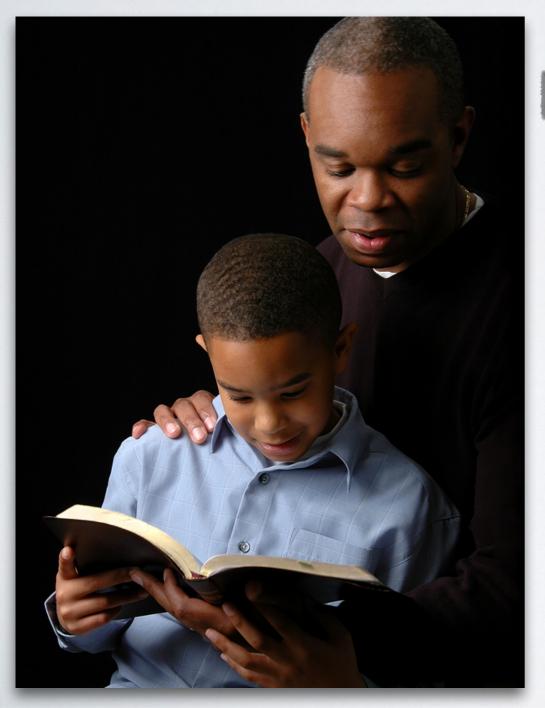
- Add Virtue 2 Pet 1:3; Phili 4:8
 - ἀρετἡα, ῆς f: the quality of moral excellence
 —'outstanding goodness, L.N.
 - Original and general sense seems to be blended with the impression made on others, i.e., renown, excellence or praise (Hort)
 - From God's goodness vs. 3 -



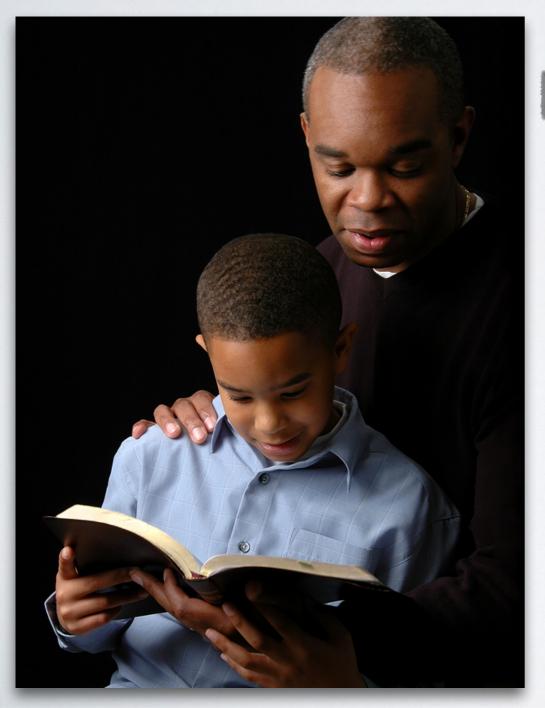
- Add Knowledge Rom 15:14; 1 Cor. 1:5; 2 Cor 4:6
 - (gnōsin) Insight, understanding
 - Knowledge of His will Phili
 3:8; 2 Pet 3:18; Acts 17:11,12;
 Eph 3:5 Hos. 4:6; 1 Pet. 2:2;
 Heb. 5:12-14
 - Gained from examining scripture Acts 17:11



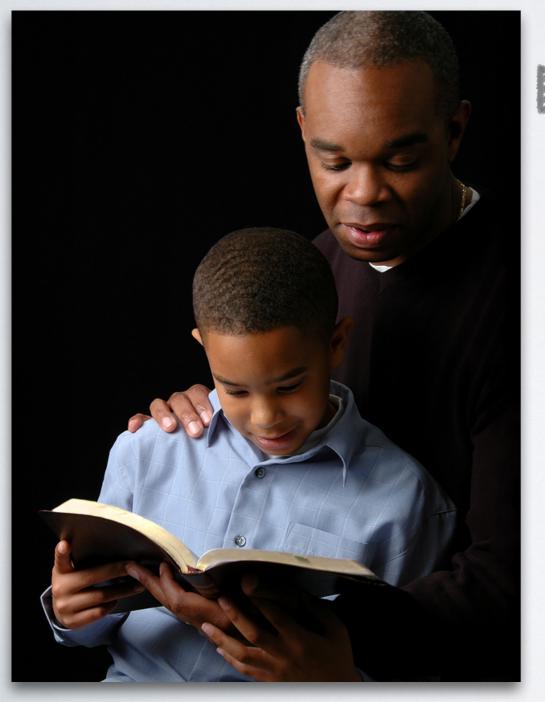
- Add Self Control Gal 5:23; Acts 24:25
 - "Restraint of one's emotions, impulses, or desires, self-control" [BDAG]
 - Need to be constantly in control (thoughts, tongue, temper and actions) Jas. 1:14; 1 Cor. 9:25-27; 2 Cor 10:5
 - Doing RIGHT is our choice!



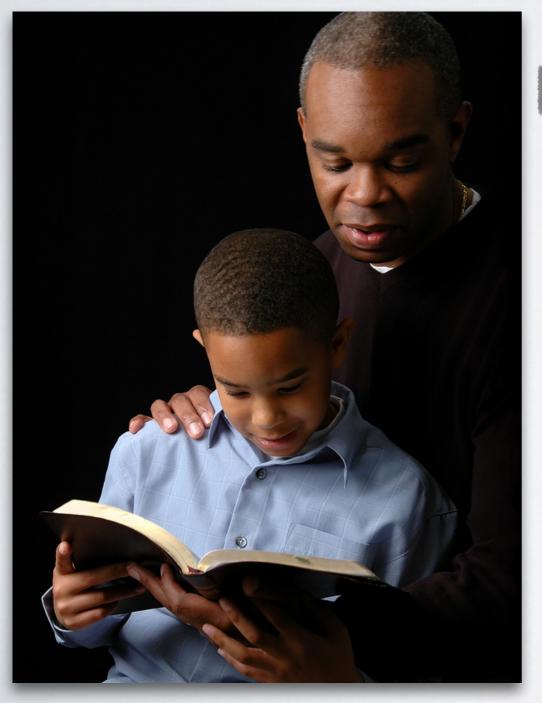
- Add Perseverance Jas. 1:2-4,13; Job; Jas. 5:11
 - Capacity to hold out or bear up in the face of difficulty, patience, endurance, fortitude, steadfastness, perseverance [BDAG]
 - Run with endurance Acts 14:22; Rom 5:3; Heb. 10:36; 12:1-3, 6:12; Jas. 5:7-8



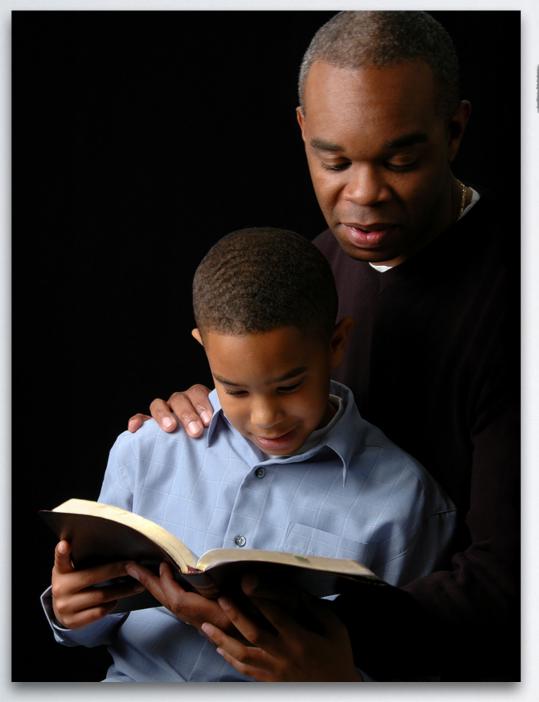
- Add Godliness 1:3; 3:11;
 Prov. 1:7; Ps 112:1
 - "To be devout," denotes piety, a "Godward attitude," seeking to do what pleases God -
 - Piety & Respect for God of greater value than anything in this world 1 Tim 4:7,8; 6:6
 - Our society is becoming more godless and immoral 2 Tim 3:1-5; 4:1-5



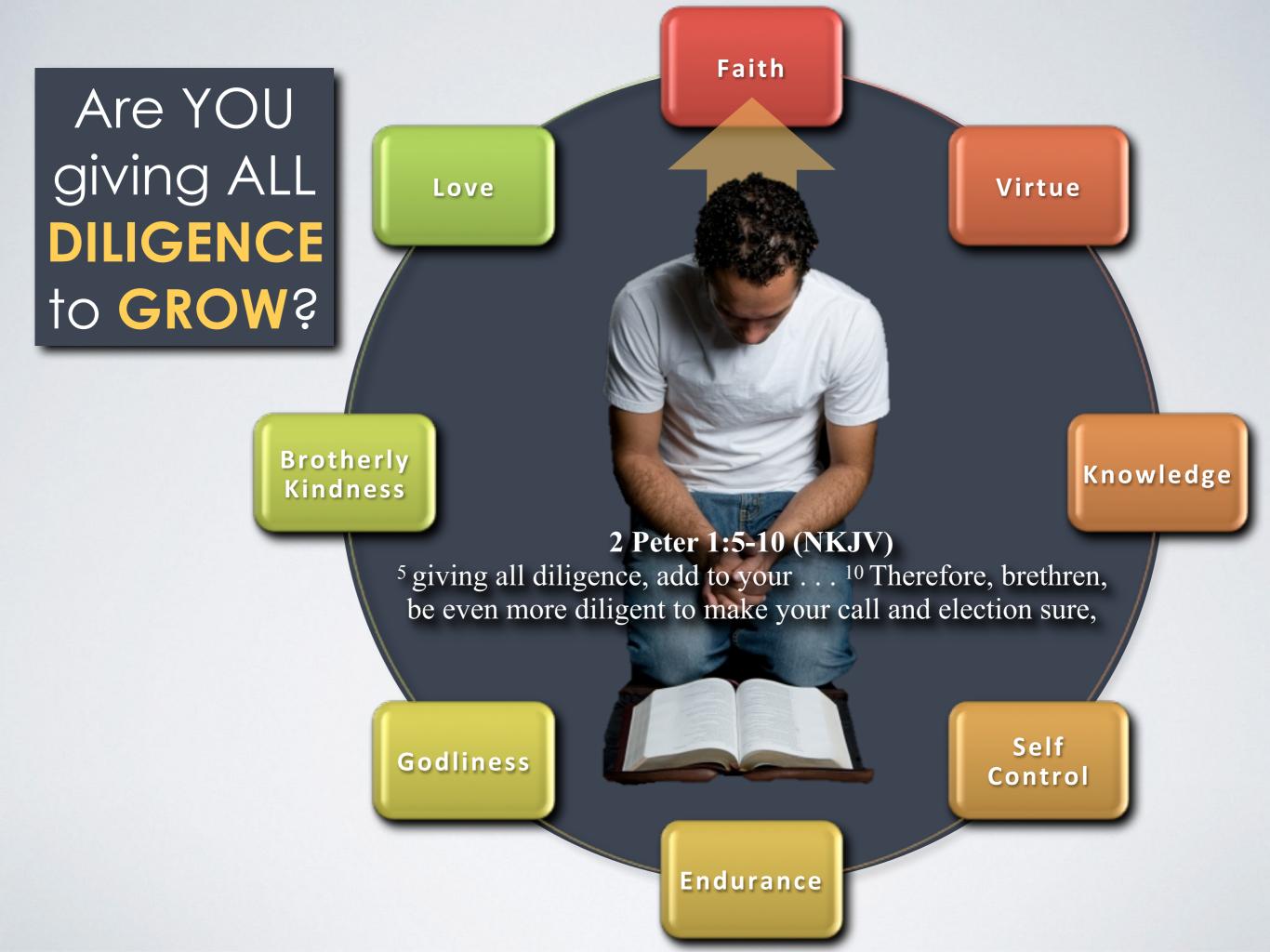
- Add Brotherly Kindness Rom 12:10; 1 Thes 4:9; Heb 13:1; 1 Pet 1:22
 - Loving and being kind to other Christians, (We ARE family) John 13:34,35; 1 Pet. 1:22; Eph. 4:32
 - We should find ways to show this love! Gal 6:10; 1 Thes 4:10; 1 John 3:14-17

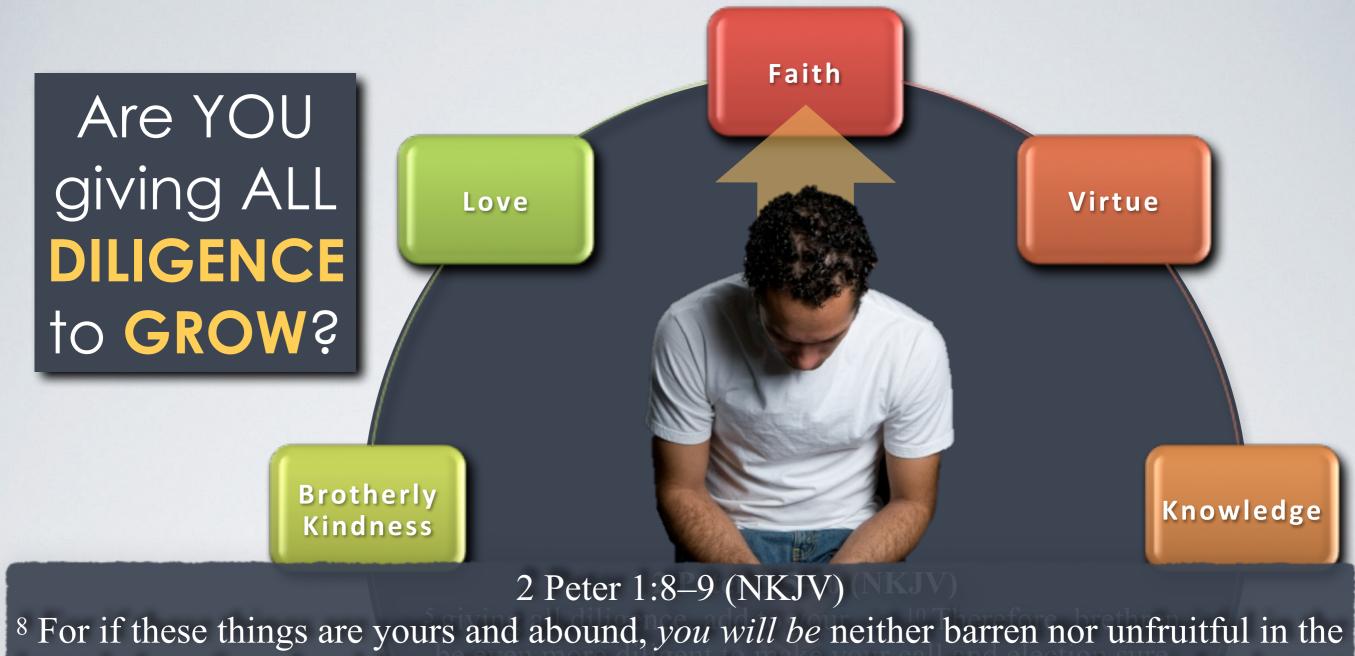


- Add Love Rom 13:10; 1
 Cor 13:1-8,13; 16:14
 - Seeks the best interest of its object because we value it Rom 13:10; 5:8,9
 - As Christ loved us Eph. 5:2
 - Without love, anything we do profits nothing 1 Cor 13:1:8
 - Binds all qualities Col 3:14

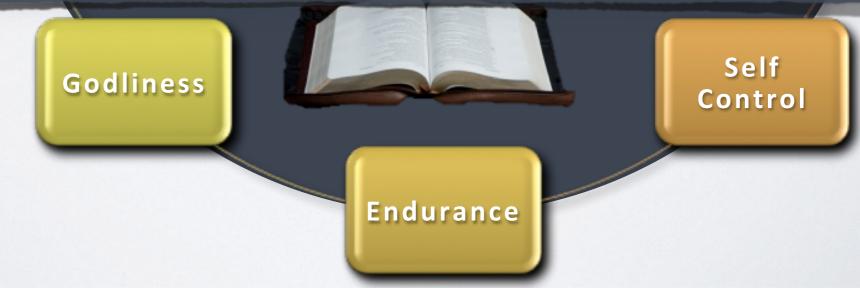


- Add Love Rom 13:10; 1 Cor 13:1-8,13; 16:14
 - Love for God Mat. 22:37
 - Love for **neighbor** Mat. 22:39
 - Love for enemies Mat. 5:44
 - Love for wives, husbands, children Eph. 5:25, Titus 2:4





⁸ For if these things are yours and abound, *you will be* neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.



Spiritual growth is a divine requirement for every believer - (We are free moral agents)

The Word of God is the divine provision for spiritual growth.

We never stay the same – we are either growing spiritually – or we are growing weaker!

Are you IN CHRIST? –
Have you by faith
repented – confessed –
been baptized?

Are you GIVING ALL DILIGENCE to grow in Christ?

2 Peter 3:14 (NKJV)

14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;



DILIGENCE

To Grow

2 Timothy 2:15; Hebrews 6:11; 2 Peter 1:5-12; 3:14

Charts by Don McClain

Preached February 3, 2019

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Hebrews 6:9-12 (NKJV)

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