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## **Benefits of Diligence**

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Commencement actually means a beginning after something ends, not just an ending. Your destiny is calling out to you! Now is the time to accomplish what you have prepared for. God certainly has a purpose for this generation. Put your hand to plow and get God's work done.

**2 Timothy 1:9** “9[For it is He] Who delivered and saved us and called us with a calling in itself holy and leading to holiness [to a life of consecration, a vocation of holiness]; [He did it] not because of anything of merit that we have done, but because of and to further His own purpose and grace (unmerited favor) which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began [eternal ages ago].”

It is good to keep the law, but the law will not cause a change in someone's life.

God has a purpose for you! You are venturing out to complete God's purpose for you.

Before the world was even created, God had a plan for your life. It is God's will for you to run out with his purpose after you have been saved.

**Ephesians 2:10 (Amp)** “10For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), [a]recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live].”

You were created in Christ Jesus.

**Isaiah 54:2-4 (Message)** “ 1-6 "Sing, barren woman, who has never had a baby.

Fill the air with song, you who've never experienced childbirth!

You're ending up with far more children

than all those childbearing women." God says so!

"Clear lots of ground for your tents!

Make your tents large. Spread out! Think big!

Use plenty of rope,

drive the tent pegs deep.

You're going to need lots of elbow room

for your growing family.

You're going to take over whole nations;

you're going to resettle abandoned cities.

Don't be afraid—you're not going to be embarrassed.

Don't hold back—you're not going to come up short.

You'll forget all about the humiliations of your youth,

and the indignities of being a widow will fade from memory.

For your Maker is your bridegroom,

his name, God-of-the-Angel-Armies!

Your Redeemer is The Holy of Israel,

known as God of the whole earth.

You were like an abandoned wife, devastated with grief,

and God welcomed you back,

Like a woman married young  
and then left," says your God.”

This message does not only apply to graduates, but to all of us. We should plan beyond our own abilities so that God will have to get involved for us to accomplish our goals. This will show our faith in the Lord and allow Him to be a big part of our lives. We can always tell who is anchored in Jesus Christ because they will bear fruit.

**Philippians 3:13-15 (Message)** “12-14I’m not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. Friends, don’t get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I’ve got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I’m off and running, and I’m not turning back.

15-16So let’s keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us. If any of you have something else in mind, something less than total commitment, God will clear your blurred vision—you’ll see it yet! Now that we’re on the right track, let’s stay on it. “

The longer we follow the Lord, the narrower our visions and paths will become. We will not be able to be distracted by the things that can make us lukewarm anymore.

Life itself, as well as the people that we are around that are not God fearing, will blur our spiritual vision and will be a distraction to our spiritual lives. Our vision needs to be cleared from time to time.

If we do not clear our spiritual vision from time to time, then we will start to allow compromise into our lives. If we really want to experience God, we have to have a total, a whole and complete, commitment to Him.

**Philippians 3:16 (Message)** “15-16So let’s keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us. If any of you have something else in mind, something less than total commitment, God will clear your blurred vision—you’ll see it yet! Now that we’re on the right track, let’s stay on it.”

**Philippians 3:17-18 (Message)** “17-19Stick with me, friends. Keep track of those you see running this same course, headed for this same goal. There are many out there taking other paths, choosing other goals, and trying to get you to go along with them. I’ve warned you of them many times; sadly, I’m having to do it again. All they want is easy street. They hate Christ’s Cross. But easy street is a dead-end street. Those who live there make their bellies their gods; belches are their praise; all they can think of is their appetites.”

The people that we allow to influence your life make a difference in us.

Easy Street is always a dead end. It will not always be easy to finish the goal.

**Philippians 3:20 (Message)** “20-21But there’s far more to life for us. We’re citizens of high heaven! We’re waiting the arrival of the Savior, the Master, Jesus Christ, who will transform our earthy bodies into glorious bodies like his own. He’ll make us beautiful and whole with the same powerful skill by which he is putting everything as it should be, under and around him.”

Through public education we have been trained how to have success in the world, which is good, but it is not as important as being trained to have success in Jesus Christ.

Do not wear yourself out in order to get rich. It is not worth it.

Diligence is a firm, steady effort to accomplish that which was undertaken.

Just stay with it!

**2 Peter 1:5-10** “ 5And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. 8For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. 10Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall”

Look for someone who has fruit in their life, not just gifts, whenever you are looking for you mate.

There is always an opportunity to pull into a rest stop and decide to coast. This coasting will cause you to get off course.

**1 Timothy 4:14-16** “14Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. 15Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. 16Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.”

Whenever we are following God, truly following Him, there will be signs following us. Often times, people will start in the ministry, have signs start following them, get to busy and try to just start ministering out of the signs and not God. It is easy to do whenever a minister gets busy, but never forget the Lord and keep him first.

**Hebrews 12:1-3** “ 1Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, 2Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.”

**Hebrews 12:2-3 (Message)** “ 1-3Do you see what this means—all these pioneers who blazed the way, all these veterans cheering us on? It means we'd better get on with it. Strip down, start running—and never quit! No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: Cross, shame, whatever. And now he's there, in the place of honor, right alongside God. When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he plowed through. That will shoot adrenaline into your souls!”