

## Diligence Pt. 2

God has a plan for our lives that requires our participation to realize it fully.

Peter wrote about God's plan for our lives,

“<sup>5</sup>Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence,  
 in your faith supply moral excellence,  
 and in your moral excellence, knowledge,  
 and in your knowledge, self-control,  
 and in your self-control, perseverance,  
 and in your perseverance, godliness,  
 and in your godliness, brotherly kindness,  
 and in your brotherly kindness, love.

(2 Peter 1:5-)

### God's Plan

Faith – Saving faith is the starting point, the beginning. Just as creation was the beginning – the genesis – so the new creation is the beginning of spiritual life.

Faith is not behavior modification or religion, or any form of good deeds. It is a relationship with God in which His Spirit indwells us and causes us to be born again. Peter describes this in verse 1,

To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours,  
 by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ...

We are saved by grace through faith, not by works – by His righteousness. In Titus 3:5-7 Paul writes,

“He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

This is the foundation of God's plan for our lives. Everything flows from this.

The next step...

## Moral Excellence – “soil that is rich”

Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith (Acts 11:24)  
Moral purity and personal integrity begins with inner cleansing and continues with selfless holiness produced by the Holy Spirit.

Paul’s letter to the Thessalonian believers,

“God’s plan is to make you holy, and that entails first of all a clean cut with sexual immorality. Every one of you should learn to control his body, keeping it pure and treating it with respect, and never regarding it as an instrument for self-gratification, as do pagans with no knowledge of God.”

(1 Thess. 4:4-5 J. B. Phillips)

In the rich soil of moral excellence, a garden of Christ-like character is planted.

Knowledge – gnosis – practical experiential. Knowledge that is practiced.

Learning is the basis of all discipleship. It is lived out by experience

We are to be “doers of the word, and not hearers only.”

It’s not how much we know that counts, but how much we live.

## Self Control – “Get a grip on yourself”

...the inner strength to control one’s desires and cravings

It’s similar to the quality of meekness or gentleness: strength under control.

## Perseverance – “--most literal rendering means “to walk under the load.”

This refers to the courage to deal with the difficult times in life  
– to “remain under” whatever may come.

## Godliness – eusebeia – authentic piety --“reverence and obedience.”

– right perspective and attitude toward God and others

## Brotherly Kindness – Philadelphia – family love

- Caring for each other like family.

## Love – self-sacrificing, selfless love

(*agape*) is a deliberate desire for the highest good of the person loved.

It demonstrates itself in sacrificial action for that person's good.

Paul wrote:

“The goal of our instruction is love  
from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith” (1 Tim. 1:5).

John wrote that we should love one another, because God is love. (1 John 4:7-8)

The final step of God's plan for us is Christlike character: genuine love. This action plan is based on God's provision, our participation, and the practical outworking of the process and results:

Outline:

- I. God's Provision :3-4
- II. Our Participation :5-9
- III. A Practical Process :10-11

## I. God's Provision

<sup>1</sup>Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,  
To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours,  
by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:

<sup>2</sup>Grace and peace be multiplied to you  
in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord;

<sup>3</sup>seeing that **His divine power**  
has granted to you everything pertaining to life and godliness,  
through the true knowledge of Him  
who called us by His own glory and excellence.

<sup>4</sup>For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises,  
so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature,  
having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

(2 Peter 1:1-4)

Peter was concerned for his church-

(those Jesus had commissioned him to feed and care for)

In this context Peter identifies himself as a servant and apostle of Christ.

Since God's provision is the divine nature, how do we enter into it.

Verse 4 directs us specifically:

... He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises,  
so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature,

The divine nature is the power supply of God.

Through God's power we have access to godliness and escape the corruption of the world. We enter in by the promises.

**Promises:**

Precious -

Magnificent -

For every need and temptation God has promised and provided help for us.

Rest – Matt. 11:28-29

Stress – Phil. 4:6-7

Temptation – 1 Cor. 10:13

Guidance – Pr. 3:5-6

As we believe and count on what God has promised we experience God's power, live in the new nature, and escape the world's corruption.

**Corruption:** word describing spoiled meat or fruit.

**Lust:** evil desire

John wrote,

“Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.” (1 John 2:15-17)

## II. Our Participation

<sup>5</sup>Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence,  
in your faith supply moral excellence,

Apply / Supply

He uses the word, diligence three times in this chapter,

v. 5 To those with faith to “apply all **diligence**” to grow in character.

- v. 10 Be more **diligent** to “make certain about His calling and choosing you”  
 v. 15 To himself to “be **diligent**” to have this letter finished for their sakes.

Diligence is

...accepting each task as a special assignment from the Lord  
 and using all my energies to do it quickly and skillfully.

**Diligence** – Gk. Spudain

**Giving all diligence** (σπουδὴν πᾶσαν παρεισενέγκαντες) The verb occurs only here in New Testament, and means, literally, *to bring in by the side of: adding* your diligence to the divine promises. So Rev., *adding on your part*.<sup>1</sup>

God tells us to participate based on what He has already provided.

Our Participation to God’s Provision!

...applying all diligence,  
 in your faith supply moral excellence

**Supply/add** – choreography – A stage term today of the movement on a set.

In those days the ‘choreographer’ was the one who paid for a lavish stage, both costumes and sets. – He paid the price no matter what it cost.

No matter how difficult and costly we must diligently add character to our lives.

**Diligence (OT)** is used to communicate concepts such as *rising early*.

It is described as...

...searching out with painstaking effort; being earnest, eager and determined; working swiftly, skillfully, and efficiently; and pursuing a task promptly and energetically.<sup>2</sup>

Heb. Charuwts – “*a trench that is dug, or gold that is mined.*”

“...gold that is mined”

<sup>1</sup> Vincent, M. R. (1887). *Word studies in the New Testament* (Vol. 1, pp. 678–679). New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons.

<sup>2</sup> Institute in Basic Life Principles, *The Power for True Success*, (Oak Brook: IBLP, 2001), p. 71.

The California Gold Rush of 1849 brought prospectors from everywhere in America, as men dropped everything to look for gold. They sacrificed and worked tirelessly with hopes of striking it rich. Imagine if they worked with the same energy and motivation at every task in life. That would be diligence.

“The hand of the diligent will rule,  
but the slack hand will be put to forced labor.”

Pr. 12:24

“Poor is he who works with a negligent hand,  
But the hand of the diligent makes rich.”

Pr. 10:4

Diligence is Our Participation with God’s Provision,  
producing God’s character in us.

### III. A Practical Process

#### 1. Promise of a fruitful life and ministry.

For if these qualities are yours and are increasing,  
they render you neither useless nor unfruitful  
in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1:8-9)

#### 2. Promise of a certain and sure salvation

“Therefore, brethren,  
be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you;  
for as long **as you practice these things**, you will never stumble;  
for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom  
of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ  
will be abundantly supplied to you” (v. 10-11).

Assurance of salvation comes as we are transformed into Christlikeness.  
Our behavior and Christlike character confirms our salvation.

Our participation with God’s provision causes us to inherit the promises and  
become partakers of the divine nature: the power of God.

Heb. 6:10-12 describes this:

“For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints. And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”