

## WHY IS DILIGENCE SO IMPORTANT? (Hebrews 11:6)

### I. **The worst insult God can be offered.**

- A. Indifference, or we can call it apathy or complacency, or even hypocrisy in that we care about God less than we give the appearance of caring.
- B. Some of the strongest language in scripture is reserved for those who pretend to care but don't (Malachi 1:10,13; Matthew 23:27-28).
- C. We must remember how Jesus promises to treat the lukewarm (Revelation 3:15-16).
- D. The only way to avoid this disrespect of God is by seeking Him more diligently.
- E. How can we do that?
  - 1. Be sincere in our efforts.
  - 2. Understand the seriousness of the situation.
  - 3. Be decisive in our efforts for Him.
  - 4. Do what we do for God with passion, not half-heartedly.
  - 5. Give our energy to the work of the church.
  - 6. Be persistent in our efforts (Galatians 6:9).
  - 7. Love God and man as we should (1 Corinthians 13:1-3).

### II. **The two basic components of diligence.**

- A. We must seek God with fervency of spirit.
  - 1. Our desire for God should be labeled a hungering and thirsting (Matthew 5:6).
  - 2. Notice the Psalmist's desire for God (Psalm 42:1-2).
- B. We must seek God faithfully.
  - 1. We do this in two different senses.
    - a. Faithful in the sense of truth (John 4:24).
      - (1) The "God" that many seek is a figment of their imaginations.
      - (2) The God who truly exists must be sought and He has the prerogative to determine how He is to be approached.
      - (3) Leviticus 10:3.
    - b. Faithful in the sense of love - with no competing loves.
      - (1) James 4:4.
      - (2) James 4:8.
      - (3) Matthew 6:33.
      - (4) Mark 12:30.
  - 2. We seek God with single-mindedness, wholeheartedness and with a pure heart.
  - 3. Matthew 5:8.

- ///. The difference that seeking God will make in our daily lives.**
- A. We will have a greater impact for good on other people.
    - 1. Ezekiel 36:23.
    - 2. Matthew 5:16.
  - B. The great feeling of peace that will come over us knowing that we are finally doing what is right toward God.
  - C. The great joy that comes from taking part in the greatest adventure of all: walking by faith.

From a sermon by Gary Henry.