

“The Diligent Disciple”

2 Peter 1:2-11

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Matthew 16:24-26 ²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him **deny** himself, and **take up his cross**, and **follow Me**. ²⁵ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. ²⁶ For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

A disciple is a follower of Jesus, learns from Him, imitates Him, and obeys His teachings.

This morning, we are going to see how a Diligent Disciple lives.

1. The Deposit

2 Peter 1:2-4 ² Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 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.”

- *Grace and peace be multiplied in the knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord* –
 - *Multiplied* – to cause to grow in number or amount, to make full and overflowing.
 - *Knowledge* – (epignosis) Knowledge gained by experience and relationship.
 - It’s one thing to know about God and quite another to know Him personally.

- **Full, thorough, precise, experiential knowledge** — not just information, but *deep, personal, relational understanding*.
- *Have given us all things that pertain to life and godliness* –
 - *Given* – means “to bestow, to endow.”
 - It would be like God handing you the keys to a car He restored ground up and filled the tank with gas. You just have to get in and drive.
 - **Colossians 2:9-10** ⁹ For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; ¹⁰ and you are complete **in** Him, who is the head of all ⁷principality and power.”
 - In other words, we have all that we need, given to us by Jesus at our new birth, the tools necessary to live for Him and be like Him.
 - **John 15:5** ⁵ “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”
 - **Philippians 4:13** “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”
- *Great and precious promises* –
 - *Great and precious!*
 - *Peter uses the word ‘Precious’ 8 times in two letters.*
 - *Precious* – Rare and priceless, of incomparable worth, to be treasured and held in honor.
 - There are approximately 7,000-8,000 promises in the Bible and they are rare and priceless!
 - **Matthew 11:28b** “I will give you rest.”
 - **Matthew 28:20b** “I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
 - **Hebrews 13:5b** “He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”
 - **John 16:33b** “In Me you may have peace... be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

- **Romans 8:28b** "...all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose."
- *Having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust –*
 - *A child of God has a new nature!*
 - The old nature had an appetite for sin.
 - The new nature has an appetite for holiness, or a desire to be like Jesus.
 - We have escaped the corruption.
 - *Escaped* – to flee away
 - *Corruption* – the condition of a corpse
 - **Romans 6:6b** "...our old man was crucified with *Him*, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin."
 - **Romans 6:2** "How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?"
 - **Romans 6:7-11** "⁷ For he who has died has been freed from sin. ⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, ⁹ knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. ¹⁰ For *the death* that He died, He died to sin once for all; but *the life* that He lives, He lives to God. ¹¹ Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord."
 - *Reckon* – Logízomai means: to reckon, count, compute, calculate to take into account, to consider, to think to regard or count something as true.
 - Like the balancing of a ledger.

2. The Disciplines

2 Peter 1:5-7 "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."

- *Giving all diligence –*

- *Diligence* – intense effort, eager commitment, wholehearted devotion.
- *Add to your faith* –
 - *We must not ONLY believe but behave!*
 - *Where there is life, there must be growth.*
 - Let's do some spiritual math (we must add to our faith).
 - *Virtue* –
 - Moral excellence, goodness, uprightness.
 - *Knowledge* –
 - (Gnosis) Practical knowledge learned and applied. Wisdom comes when we make...
 - *Self-control* –
 - To have control over your desires, impulses, to self-govern.
 - *Perseverance* –
 - To remain. To remain under pressure without giving up.
 - *Godliness* –
 - Or Godlikeness. To be like Jesus.
 - *Brotherly kindness* –
 - To treat the brethren with affection, compassion, loyalty, etc.
 - *Love* –
 - Agape, the love that God has which is unconditional.

What's on the inside will come out in the way we talk and act.

3. The Dividends

2 Peter 1:8 ⁸ “For if these things are yours and abound, *you* will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- **John 15:8** “*By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.*”
- **John 15:16b** “*I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit...*”
- In your knowledge of Jesus.
 - He again uses the word epignosis

- **Full, thorough, precise, experiential knowledge** — not just information, but *deep, personal, relational understanding*.

4. The Deficits

2 Peter 1:9 “⁹ For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.”

- *Shortsighted* – To shut the eye
 - He of whom it is true is blind in that he cannot discern spiritual things, he is near-sighted in that he is occupied in regarding worldly affairs.
 - *“It is the picture of somebody closing or squinting his eyes, unable to see at a distance.”* ¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *The Bible exposition commentary* (Vol. 2, p. 439). Victor Books.
 - Shortsightedness leads to blindness and memory loss.
- When we come to Christ, our eyes of our understanding are opened (Ephesians 1:18)
 - *Enlightened* – (pephōtismenous) — “being enlightened,” meaning: illuminated inwardly, given spiritual clarity, divinely enabled to understand truth.
- *Forgotten* – Willfully ignorant of, willfully forgetful.
 - **James 1:25** “²⁵ But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.”

5. The Destination

2 Peter 1:10-11 “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.”

- *Even more diligent* –
 - There’s the word diligent again, but this time Peter writes, *‘be even more diligent.’*
- *Make your call and election sure* –
 - *In other words, make sure you have it!*

- **2 Corinthians 13:5** ⁵ “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.”
 - *Examine* – to scrutinize, test, evaluate the genuineness of something.
 - You’re looking to see if what you believe is being lived out in your life.
 - *Test* – to prove something genuine by testing it.
 - Measure your life by the scripture.
 - Not against other Christians!
 - *Disqualified* – failing the test,
 - He’s not saying you lose your salvation, the question would be whether you had it in the first place.

- *You will never stumble* –
 - *“The Greek word for stumble means “to trip up” or “to experience a reversal.” Certainly one who is maturing in Christ will not trip up in his spiritual life as readily as one who is immature and nearsighted.”*¹ Gangel, K. O. (1985). *2 Peter*. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 867). Victor Books.

- *An entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom* –
 - *“The Greeks used this phrase to describe the welcome given Olympic winners when they returned home. Every believer will arrive in heaven, but some will have a more glorious welcome than others. Alas, some believers “shall be saved, yet so as by fire” (1 Cor. 3:15).”*¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *The Bible exposition commentary* (Vol. 2, p. 440). Victor Books.
 - *“In fact, the growing Christian can look forward to “an abundant entrance” into the eternal kingdom! The Greeks used this phrase to describe the welcome given Olympic winners when they returned home. Every believer will arrive in heaven, but some will have a more glorious welcome than*

others. Alas, some believers “shall be saved, yet so as by fire” (1 Cor. 3:15).¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *The Bible exposition commentary* (Vol. 2, p. 440). Victor Books.

Wrapping up.

The Diligent Disciple

- 1. Will draw from the resources God deposited.*
- 2. Will be growing daily with intentional effort.*
- 3. Will develop character from the inside out.*
- 4. Will be fruitful, stable and clear sighted.*
- 5. Will finish well.*

“If someone followed you for a week, who would they say you look like — Jesus or the world?”

1 Corinthians 15:58 “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”

Hebrews 10:23-25 ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”