



Lights and Perfection, Inc.

Go and make disciples!

E-votional 54

Earnestness

Hebrews 6:11-12 (ESV),

And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

This passage of Scripture is so bold as to declare the truth of resolve in the context being earnest in the Christian faith. It is imperative for the one who believes to have a solid resolve to be able to attain what they have believed in the end. The chosen passage recites this truth very clearly and also says that those who have this earnestness will be imitators of those who through faith inherit the promises of God. I tell you the truth, the one who lazily believes and does not resolve to the diligence of faith will in no way inherit any promise of God.

As we read, we must realize a couple of key points in this passage along the lines of the context it brings. These are earnestness and its contrast sluggishness.

The earnestness spoken of in this passage is made clear by its working definition found in Helps Word Studies taken from <https://biblehub.com/greek/4710.htm>.

4710 spoudé (from 4692 /speúdō, "move quickly, speed on") – properly, swiftness to show zealous diligence, i.e. one's "best" (full effort by making haste).

For the believer, 4710 /spoudé ("speedy diligence") means quickly obeying what the Lord reveals is His priority. This elevates the better over the good – the more important over the important – and does so with earnest swiftness (intensity).

It is quite interesting because it not only speaks of diligence but swift or quick diligence. In other words, the very Word of God shows us that being earnest in the faith is something done swiftly. In short, when God speaks are we wick to hearken or listen to His voice and so comply. A dear sister in Christ that my wife and I are very fond of recently shared with us by the Holy Spirit the truth about

listening to God's Word and voice beyond what we feel or even see. She reiterated the passage of Scripture found in Romans 3:4 (ESV),

By no means! Let God be true though everyone were a liar, as it is written, "That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged."

Praise God! It is so true! Every Word of God is trustworthy. Added on to this concept is the swift earnestness of keeping in step with it.

The opposite of earnestness brings us to the next key point in the chosen passage of Scripture which is a contrast to earnestness. This is sluggishness. Helps Word Studies taken from <https://biblehub.com/greek/3576.htm>, defines this word as follows,

3576 nōthrós – properly, slow, sluggish (LS); (figuratively) dull because slothful; lazy, inert, listless (lackadaisical).

There it is, by contrast to swiftness, it means slowness. This is interesting and to be honest when writing this teaching, I was not even expecting it to turn out this way. I am getting revelation as I write this. When reading this passage of Scripture at first glance we could very easily miss the point. This passage is referring to the one who believes to remain quick to diligence and to hold it firm to the end. The opposite is to be slow or sluggish and so be a lazy faithless Christian who does not inherit the promise.

There is a real danger as Christians to fall to the peril of our sinful sluggish selves. We must resolve to remain diligent until the end furnishing the very spoken Word of God in our lives. As the Scripture reiterates, we are to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope to the end. This is to say that it is entirely possible for this to be a reality in our lives. To make this happen God gives us spiritual weapons and tools to ensure our spiritual safety. In short, we need to realize the command of Paul to Timothy in 2 Timothy 1:6 (ESV),

For this reason, I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

Something really interesting about this command from Paul to Timothy is the idea of fanning into flame the gift of God and comparing it to the definition of earnestness, namely the part that says 'swiftness to show zealous diligence.' The reason why this is interesting is that zealous diligence is insinuating a burning passion. So, we can say that it is important and necessary to fan into flame the gift of God that is in us in order to remain earnest and not sluggish in the faith.

The Lord has equipped us with the weapons and tools to fight this spiritual battle (i.e. Spirit-filled Prayer, Bible Study, Praise and Worship, Prophetic declaration of God's Word, etc.) so as to keep in the faith and alive and on fire for Him. There are by contrast also a lot of weapons and tools of the enemy to divert our attention from these God-given weapons and tools. When we focus our attention on the diversion and fail to keep the fire burning, we become sluggish and lazy in the faith.

Let us resolve to keep the fire burning and to remain earnest in our faith so as to receive what is promised. And let us sing these lyrics from the song Confidence by Sanctus Real,

So give me faith like Daniel in the lion's den

Give me hope like Moses in the wilderness

Give me a heart like David, Lord be my defense

So I can face my giants with confidence

Lord, You are so much greater and more powerful than we give You credit for. You train our hands for war and our fingers for battle (Psalm 144:1). Thank You for this! Lift us up today to spiritual heights that we have yet to rise to so that our faith will remain firm, quick and earnest to the end. Pour out Your Spirit of holiness on us and awaken us to desire You above anything else in this life, in Jesus name Amen.

In Christ's Love,
Chris and Jeanne
Lights and Perfection, Inc



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