Blessed be the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome, let’s dive into the Word of God—the Light to our path and the Lamp that guides our feet (Psalm 119:105). The Bible is not just a book; it’s the living Word that shapes our lives and directs our steps.

Many of us put considerable effort into the “flesh”—our physical well-being, careers, and material goals. This is not inherently wrong, as the Bible affirms that physical care is necessary (1 Timothy 4:8). However, it’s equally important that we prioritize spiritual effort, because spiritual growth is of eternal value. The Bible teaches, “For the flesh profits nothing; the words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life” (John 6:63). Spiritual diligence produces eternal fruit.

Romans 12:11 says, “Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.” This passage highlights the importance of being fervent in spirit. To be fervent means to be passionate and devoted, not passive or half-hearted in our service to God. The urgency of serving God is emphasized throughout the Scriptures, as He deserves our best.

1. EFFORT IN DOING GOOD.

1 Peter 3:13 states, “Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good?” Christians are called to be agents of goodness in the world. Acts of kindness are a direct expression of God’s love working through us. This includes:

Helping the poor, widows, and orphans: James 1:27 calls this “pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father,” emphasizing that our compassion for the vulnerable reflects God’s heart.

Forgiving others: In Matthew 6:14-15, Jesus teaches, “For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

Promoting peace and justice: Micah 6:8 reminds us, “He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

These are all examples of the good that God calls us to do, and they are key ways we can be diligent in the spirit.

2. EFFORT IN LOVING ONE ANOTHER.

1 Peter 4:8 instructs us, “Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.” Love is the cornerstone of Christian discipleship (Matthew 22:37-39). Jesus Himself said in John 13:34-35, “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

True Christian love is sacrificial, patient, and selfless (1 Corinthians 13:4-7). When we love deeply, we mirror the heart of God who has loved us unconditionally (Romans 5:8). Loving one another also means offering forgiveness (Ephesians 4:32) and serving one another in humility (Galatians 5:13).

3. EFFORT IN SERVING GOD.

> Colossians 3:23-24 says, “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”

Serving God isn’t confined to preaching, teaching, or standing in front of a congregation. Jesus Himself said in Matthew 25:40, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” Acts like cleaning the church, serving the poor, or helping those in need are all service to God when done with a right heart.

Moreover, 1 Corinthians 15:58 encourages, “Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”

4. EFFORT IN PRAYER.

Luke 18:1 says, “Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.” Prayer is a vital part of our relationship with God. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 commands, “Pray without ceasing.” This doesn’t mean constant verbal prayer but maintaining an attitude of prayer throughout the day—always mindful of God’s presence.

Jesus Himself modeled a life of constant prayer. In Mark 1:35, it says, “Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.”

Setting aside time for daily, focused prayer demonstrates a heart eager for connection with God, and it fuels spiritual growth. The Bible assures that “the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective” (James 5:16).

5. EFFORT IN STUDYING THE WORD.

The Bible is our spiritual food, and 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

In Psalm 1:2-3, the blessed man is described as someone “whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night.” Studying the Word of God isn’t just for knowledge but for transformation. Romans 12:2 encourages us, “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

The more we immerse ourselves in Scripture, the more we align our thinking with God’s will. This is the ultimate form of spiritual diligence, growing in wisdom and knowledge of Him (Colossians 3:16).

6. EFFORT IN GIVING TO GOD.

2 Corinthians 9:7 instructs, “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” Giving is not just about money; it includes our time, talents, and resources. In Matthew 6:19-21, Jesus teaches us to lay up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys.

Giving generously reflects a heart of gratitude for all God has given us. Proverbs 3:9-10 says, “Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.” Our giving is a reflection of our trust in God’s provision.

May the Lord bless you as you strive to grow in diligence and faith, embodying the fullness of His Spirit in all areas of your life.

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