



**THE
POWER OF
DILIGENCE**

NIYI MAKINDE

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The eternal concepts and existential creativity of God is vast and wide. Obviously, there is no meticulous mind that can exhaust it or see its end. In a grand style, I say God is great. I appreciate Him for the insight He has given me.

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My love remains consistent to all pastors, leaders and members of Rebirth Global Church.

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DILIGENCE

“Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord.” Romans 12:11 (KJV)

“Not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.”
Romans 12:11 (NKJV)

“Never be lazy in your work, but serve the Lord enthusiastically.”
Romans 12:11 (TLB)

It is essential to understand that believers are commanded to be diligent. In other words, any believers that have a lifestyle that is devoid of diligence will end up in mediocrity. Paul, in his epistles to the Roman believers commanded them to ensure that they are diligent. I want us to check how each of the three translations above put it.

The King James Version says *“not slothful in business.”* The word *sloth* refers to laziness. It suggests a state of inactiveness. When you are inactive, you are slothful. According to the version of consideration, it is an approach from a business perspective. The writer suggests that whatever endeavor (business) you find yourself, you must never get to a state of inactiveness. It is

possible to be in business and be slothful. Your spirit, soul and body should be highly active in whatever engagement you find yourself.

The other side of sloth is zeal. In fact, there are Bible translations that says you should not lose your zeal in your work. The moment zeal is lost, sloth is accepted. It is either you are zealous or lazy. Whoever is not active at work is slothful. There are many prayerful but slothful believers today. They can spend many hours in prayers actively but are not active at work. That is why Paul counseled that you should be fervent in spirit, that is to be prayerful, but never be slothful in business. As your spiritual fervency is high, let your work ethics be high too.

The New King James Version says “*not lagging in diligence...*” To lag means to act, move, grow slowly than others. There are people who are just too slow in taking actions. They can take thirty days to do what other people speedily do within three days. Delay is not far from those who lag in diligence. Why? This is simply because what they should do for two days, they will do for ten days. If you don’t develop the mentality of speed at work, you are lagging in diligence. In fact, if you are diligent, you should be able to do within two days what took others five days.

It is possible to be diligent but lagging. We will later discuss the meaning of diligence in this book as you read on. But I want you to know that it is not just enough to be diligent, you have to avoid lagging. Anyone that is diligent but slow (lagging) hasn’t yet obeyed the command of scriptures. Paul didn’t command that you should be diligent. No! He commanded that you shouldn’t lag. Why? He knew it is possible for you to be a slow diligent worker. Anyone who failed to develop the consciousness and mentality of speed at work will surely lag in diligence.

Sometimes ago, I meditated on this verse and concluded I was lagging in diligence. The reason being that there were things I planned to do within two days that for some known or unknown reasons I couldn't accomplish within the stipulated time. I eventually do those things but not at the stipulated time. That I did them eventually is diligence but that I couldn't do it within the timeframe that I scheduled was lagging in diligence. Anyone that failed to meet up with a deadline is lagging in diligence.

A man once said, if you fixed thirty days to clean your house, it will take you thirty days. If you fixed three days, it will take you three days. And if you fix three hours, it will take you three hours. He concluded that if you can mount pressure on yourself, you will do many things quickly than you imagined. Having considered certain things, I concluded that it was true. I understand that there are things that require more time because of other external factors that must be contributed to it. But I also know that there are many things you can do successfully if you can mount pressure on yourself.

The Living Bible Translation says "*never be lazy in your work.*" In other words, we can conclude that it is laziness that makes people lag (slow) in their task. If you are slow at executing task, you are lazy. For Paul to have commanded believers not to be lazy at work means that a believer has the tendency to be lazy at work. Salvation will not take away laziness from you. I hate lazy people. Anyone that complains too much about the difficulty of a task is a lazy person. There is no task that is too hard to do, it is laziness that make task too hard. It is time you take on a new mindset and refuse to lag in diligence.

ARE YOU A DESTROYER?

"He who is slothful in his work is a brother to him who is a great

destroyer.” Proverbs 18:9 (NKJV)

“Someone who does careless work is as bad as someone who destroys things.” Proverbs 18:9 (TLB)

“A person who doesn’t work hard is just like someone who destroys things.” Proverbs 18:9 (Expanded Bible)

You know the first time I read this passage from the New King James Version, I didn’t understand it directly until I read from other translations. There are people who builds things and there are others who destroy things. The Living Bible reveals to us that anyone who does work carelessly is as bad as someone who destroys things. If you don’t handle your work carefully, then, you are like one that destroys.

Having understood who a slothful person is, we must establish that anyone that is not active with his work is a brother to him who is a great destroyer. In other words, a slothful person is like a great destroyer. If you are a leader of a business company or organization, you should identify the inactive people in your staff lists, leadership team or workforce. Those are the destroyers there. Anyone that is not actively involved at work is a destroyer.

What will this destroyer destroy? The slothful (great destroyer) will destroy the unity and peace of the team. They destroy the zeal and energy of others by sowing the seed of inactiveness into the team. Passion is contagious, so also is slothfulness. If you stay around it long enough, you will catch it. That is why you must not permit in your team a slothful person. If care is not taken, such will affect your effectiveness.

Anyone who doesn’t work hard is already destroying unknowingly. A sure way to destroy things is to be lazy. If you are lazy and not working hard, you are a destroyer. Laziness destroys people, things and time.

Are you a destroyer? A better way to know is to find out if you are not lazy. The moment you identify yourself as a lazy person, just know that you are a destroyer.

LAZY PEOPLE CANNOT HAVE DOMINION

“I went by the field of the lazy man, and by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding; and there it was, all overgrown with thorns; its surface was covered with nettles; its stone wall was broken down. When I saw it, I considered it well; I looked on it and received instruction: A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest; so shall your poverty come like a prowler, and your need like an armed man” Proverbs 24:30-34.

There are too many lazy people in the world. Two main qualities found with lazy folks are sleeping and talking. In other words, lazy people are good at talking and sleeping. They talk without doing nothing. When your speaking exceeds your doing, then, you are lazy. I must also say that when sleeping exceed working, you are lazy. If the hours you sleep exceed the hours you work, you are a lazy fellow. The only exemption to that is in sickness. A sick person may be required to sleep and rest a lot for recuperation.

When scripture says that you shouldn't lag in diligence, it simply means that you shouldn't be lazy. Solomon, the wisest man in his time reveals certain things from the above scripture. We see the field of the lazy man, the laziness of the man, the causes of his laziness and the outcome of his laziness.

The field was highly overgrown with abandoned tasks. In other words, the lazy man has failed to do the needful. Anyone that procrastinate a lots will definitely have the kind of field that belongs to a lazy man. Lazy people often are those who seek motivation or inspiration from men before they do things. If

you need to be motivated or inspired by another man before you carry out your task or do your job, then, you are lazy.

The lazy man is one who has failed to carry out his task appropriately and at the normal time. One thing I have learned is that your results in life will reveal whether you are lazy or not. If you have to tell people that you are hardworking before they know you are not lazy, then, you are lazy. Don't attempt to make your words reveal that you are not lazy, let your work and results show it. What you show is more informing than what you say. In fact, what you show reveals who you are while what you say reveals what you know.

Solomon was intentional to reveal the causes of the laziness of this man. His laziness was a product of a little sleep, a little slumber and a little folding of the hands to rest. The question I asked myself is that why is everything little. It wasn't too much sleep or slumber, but just a little. A little folding of the hands to rest simply means taking time to rest when you should be working. In fact, Expanded Bible translation says a little sleep means to take a nap; while a little folding of the arms means to lie down to rest. So, laziness is traceable to sleep and rest at the wrong time.

The message translation of verse 33 says *"A nap here, a nap there, a day off here, a day off there, sit back, take it easy – do you know what comes next?"* I was blown away by the insight I got from this translation. Do you notice it says, a day off here, a day off there? That is the situation with many people. They haven't built consistency into their lives. They failed to understand that success is a product of daily habit. If you are such that loves to take nap here and there, especially during the day, you are lazy. You should sleep during the day when you know that you will work at night.

Solomon further reveals the outcome of laziness. He said, “*so shall your poverty come like prowler and your need like an armed man.*” Many people are poor not because of their mind, but their body. If you don’t know how to discipline your body to work, you may end up in poverty. There are people who are sound in their mind, but lazy. They have just refused to work. I am a full time minister of the gospel, but I work from morning till night. In fact, there are a whole lot to do. I learned early to take ministry as work. One of the reason I occupy myself with right work daily is because of the insight gotten from this scriptural passage. But I know pastors who are in ministry like me too but can chat on social media from morning till evening. No wonder the bible says “*idle chatter leads only to poverty*” Proverbs 14:23.

Before you start praying to God to make you rich, you need to get sense early. God can release the blessing that makes rich on you, but God will not help you to do your work. if all you do is to chat on social media or chat through verbal conversation for hours daily, you should know that you will end up in poverty. God’s blessings will empower you to prosper, but His blessing will not remove laziness from you. There are many blessed lazy people. They are blessed but lazy. That is the reason certain blessings have not manifested in their lives. Young people needs to learn early that if they are not disciplined with the way they chat on social media for hours and avoid oversleeping, they will end up in poverty. Idleness is the left hand to laziness. If you don’t want to be poor, you have to be hardworking now.

Whoever has dominion is in charge. How can you be in charge when you are lazy? There are too many people who desire to rise to the top in their field but can’t just get there because they are lazy? Laziness here connotes that they take a day off here and there. In other words, they are not consistent with their

focus and actions. If you are not diligent with focus and actions, you cannot have dominion. Do you desire to be in charge in life? Do you desire to be among those who will rule in life? If yes, you have to ensure you don't permit laziness. You should always bear in mind that the end goal of laziness is to get you into poverty.

INTELLIGENCE IS DIFFERENT FROM DILIGENCE

There is a clear difference between intelligence and diligence. You can be intelligent but not diligent. And I have seen people who are not highly intelligent but highly diligent. In school, it is not your diligence that is trained, it is your intelligence that is trained. That is the reason there are teachers and lecturers who are intelligent but not diligent.

Intelligence is an ability. It is the ability to learn, interpret and think about things. That is the reason I often say that learning and thinking makes the intelligent but practice and doing makes the diligent. If you only train your intelligence but failed to master the art of diligence, you may never achieve your goals.

We will learn the definition of diligence in the next chapter. You cannot be diligent and not be a finisher of your course in life. I have learned that you don't need to be highly intelligent to be diligent. But you can become more intelligent through diligence. I must tell you that diligence is a special course in the school of success. Intelligence may make you scholastic, but diligence will make you successful. You don't yet know until you do something with what you know, and it takes diligence to put your knowledge to work.

Do you realize that a person who is not highly intelligent but diligent will rule over another person who is highly intelligent but not diligent? You must be such that will add diligence to

your intelligence. You have not mastered the path to success until you add diligence to your intelligence.

COMPETENCE IS DIFFERENT FROM DILIGENCE

You may be competent but not diligent. In fact, I have learned that a person who's not competent but diligent will become competent with time. You've got to know that competence will not make you diligent but diligence can make you competent.

As you advance in life, you will come to discover that God wants you to be competent and diligent. When you are competent, you become the best at what you do. Competence is needed. You cannot rise to the top if you are not competent. But you need to know that you cannot rise to the top if you are not diligent too. It takes the combination of diligence and competence to rise to the top.

You have to train to be competent but practice to be diligent. You might have been regarded the best in your space, sphere or field, but are you diligent? If you can't boldly say yes, then, you should know that you are not ready for the top yet. Diligence alone isn't enough, likewise competence too. You have to combine both to rise to the top.

As you go about your daily activities in life, you must make up your mind to be diligent and competent. You must be the best at what you do, but you must add diligence to it. Diligence is an announcer. Your diligence will announce your competence.

THE UNBREAKABLE THREEFOLD CORD: Intelligence, competence and diligence

Early in my life, I learned that there are three main things that you should possess which are knowledge, understanding and wisdom. In fact, before my teenage years, a pattern of prayers I

learned from elders in the faith and my parents was ensuring I included request for knowledge, understanding and wisdom. It was assumed then that if you prayed and you didn't request for these three elements, you have not prayed right. It was later in my teenage years that we learned other things to pray about.

One day, as I was meditating, my understanding was opened to see the need to possess three things like the three elements we prayed about at our early age. The three elements I see the need to possess are intelligence, competence and diligence. Too many only have one of the three while some have been able to possess the three.

The fact is that anyone that desire to have dominion on earth must possess these three. It is unbreakable threefold cord and those who break it always pay for the consequences of such. You must be intelligent, competent and diligent. Like I said, in school, especially tertiary institution, you are trained to be intelligent and competent. Tertiary institutions don't train students to be diligent. Diligence is not a course in tertiary institution but it is a fundamental course in the school of success.

Thank God for your intelligence – sure you are a good thinker who reasons at a high level. Bless God for your competence – certainly you are skilled at what you do and the best at it. But much more, thank God for your diligence – for with this you will become a success and achieve greatness.

What is the conclusion of the whole matter? You have to say to yourself that you will be intelligent, competent and diligent.

2

WHAT IS DILIGENCE?

Many attempts have been made to define diligence. Lexicographers, great authors, powerful speakers have also explained diligence with fine words. Oftentimes, I have discovered that it's essential we define certain concepts with simple words that can be easily comprehended. That's why I use words that everyone can understand. You know in the past, I talk and write with big vocabularies only for me to discover later that only few understood my words. And the fact is that if they don't understand you, you have not yet communicated. This is the reason I speak and write with words that everyone will easily comprehend.

Diligence can be examined from three broad perspectives.

First, diligence means careful and thorough efforts. Evidently, if you are careful to carry out a task in details, then, you are diligent. In another way, when you give your all by inserting your whole energy, creativity and strategy to see that something work out, then, you are diligent.

Second, diligence means being consistent and committed.

Don't say you are diligent when you are not consistent. The fact is that diligence is the force that strengthens consistency and commitment. Diligence is commitment to work. It is a combination of hard work, right work and innovative work.

How will you keep doing things when pressure hits? I have learned that diligence will make you consistent when pressure hits. Diligent people don't know how to give up in the midst of pressure. To give up too soon because of some challenges is a sign that you are not diligent. You can't be diligent and not be consistent.

Third, diligence means to be hard working. Anyone that takes his work seriously is diligent. Those who work hard are the diligent. It is one thing to think high but it is another to work hard. Thinking high without working hard will not achieve great results. If I can see the way you work, I can predict if you are hardworking or not.

DILIGENCE ENHANCES FOCUS

Why do people lose focus easily? I learned early that people lose focus easily because they are not diligent. You can't be diligent and not be focused. Many think it's resources that enhances focus, well, that's to an extent. You must not lack resources too. But the fact is that it is diligence that make men remain focused. Anyone that is not diligent will soon lose his focus.

Resources will always flow to the direction of diligence. It may not flow immediately but with time, it will flow towards you. This is what many quitters don't understand. Lack of resources has made many quitted at the entrance of their breakthrough. If only they were diligent enough, they would have entered into what God has for them.

It's been said that you should focus on your focus. But you've got to know that diligence is the secret behind focusing on your focus. If you are not diligent, you can't remain focused. To counsel someone who lacks focus, don't tell such to be focused. Simply tell such to be diligent. You can't be diligent and not be focused. Diligence shape our focus while focus determines our results.

Whether success or greatness, the path to it is focus. But you can't be focused when you are not diligent. We should rather say that diligence is the doorway to focus. A person who is ever consistent at whatever he or she does will forever remain focus. How can you be doing something consistently and not remain focus on it? That is not possible. In fact, it is diligence that will make you to be committed to your focus.

To be focused on anything, identify what you need to do daily consistently. You can't know what to do always and not do it things always. The task you have now is to identify what you need to do daily to end up in success or greatness. The moment you identify that thing, you have to give your consistency and commitments to doing it.

It is time to be focused on your assignment because that is what will make you stand out among your peers and colleagues. You have to get rid of all forms of distractions that may rob you of meaningful results and accomplishment in life. With your focus, you will soon become the focus. In other words, when you focus on your work, the world will soon focus on you. Only those who focus on their work will eventually earn the focus of the world.

HOW TO DEVELOP DILIGENCE

You are born with your mind but not with diligence. In other

words, everyone is born with an intelligence trait but nobody is born with competence and diligence. You have to train to be competent while you have to develop diligence.

Diligence is not a virtue anyone is born with. All who have it developed it. There is no single human born with diligence, everyone that has it developed it. In fact, there is no anointing that can impart diligence on you, it's only with quality decision that you can become diligent. No decision, no diligence.

Unfortunately, there are many people with great wisdom, tremendous graces and distinguished skills but for lack of consistency and thorough efforts, they have made their wisdom, graces and skills redundant. God may give you divine elements like the ones mentioned, but if you don't put it to work, it will be a waste over your life.

Everyone gets tired at certain stages of life or time of the day, but it's diligence that propel the successful to be consistent and never give into tiredness. Let's be real, those who are consistent with actions and results are not special, they have just mastered the art of doing things consistently. In the matter of diligence, comfort or discomfort is not a consideration. The most important factors that are considered are decisions, discipline and deadline.

There three important things needed to develop diligence. They are decision, discipline and deadlines. How can you be consistent when you haven't made a decision that regardless of whatever happens you will not give up. You have to make a decision on when you want to kick start a thing. Before consistency comes starting. You can't be consistent with something you haven't started. Therefore, whatever has been placed in your mind, you have to decide to start it. Your vision or idea cannot start itself, you have to make the decision to start. You must

always remember that nothing will start until you start. Until you rise to start that business or company, it will not start itself.

The second thing that influences diligence is discipline. Diligent people are disciplined people. They react against all form of distractions and hindrances. Great things happen in our lives when we become disciplined. In fact, God can only use maximally those who are disciplined in character, personality, perspective, planning, time, resources, energy and communication. Many people have lost untold riches by having an undisciplined lifestyle and attitude. You have to be disciplined to be diligent.

Discipline is doing what is required to get what is desired. In other words, discipline is about doing what is demanded not what is convenient. Until you are disciplined, you may not know what you can do speedily and easily. It is discipline that reveals your inner power – inner power over distractions and delays. If you are prayerful but not disciplined with actions, your answers will hang in the realm of the spirit.

Let me tell you that discipline is not to be consistent to certain degree but to be consistent even when you don't feel like it. There are actions diligent people take not because they feel like taking it but because they have learned that they have to take it. You may not like traveling but you have to travel when you need to be in another country physically. Discipline will make you to be consistent with your consistency. Indiscipline makes people relax their body when they should be working. Lazy people are those with undisciplined lifestyle. If you permit your body to do or act as it likes or wish, you are undisciplined. It's time to be bold to say no to idle chatting, playing around, oversleeping, etc. I have discovered that indiscipline propels people to go for comfort instead of working. Anytime you substitute work

for comfort, you are undisciplined. Comfort, enjoyment and rest should always come after work. If you haven't work, you shouldn't rest. It's time you become disciplined so you can be diligent.

There are three kinds of pain – the pain of ignorance, the pain of discipline and the pain of regret. When you are ignorant of something, it will create pain. When you couldn't achieve somethings, you will regret it and regrets create pain. When you also discipline yourself to do something, you will also feel pained because you didn't satisfy your pleasures. The pain of discipline is being productive, focused and consistent even when it is not convenient. It is better you do it in pain rather than regretting that you should have done it. It is the understanding of the pain of discipline that made me continue writing books in sickness. I never permit the pain of sickness to affect me from accomplishing what God has put in my heart. Some of the books I wrote were written in pain and today, the pain of sickness is gone and the books written during the sickness are across places imparted many lives. I want you to make up your mind to discipline yourself and go with the pain of sickness.

The third thing that is needed to develop diligence is deadline. Until you set a deadline for what you intend to do, consistency can't be triggered in you. When you know the final date of a thing, all your intellectual and body system will be compelled to be conscious of work. Deadline is the day your work towards something must end while your results should start. Until a deadline is in place, a result or outcome is not in view. Those who work with deadline are those who develop diligence. You may not be consistent or committed when you don't know the final day a result must be achieved.

There is no anointing for diligence, you can only get the

wisdom to develop it. Even if you pray to be diligent, the answer will come as a knowledge to make decision, be disciplined and set deadline. Vision may show the destination, but it's diligence that shows deadline. Make up your mind to be diligent with your work, business, ministry and so on.

PLANNING IS FUNDAMENTAL

If you can plan your day, you will become diligent. One time, I made up my mind to do somethings consistently for about two months, but by the end of the two months, I discovered that I couldn't achieve what I decided to do. I was dumbfounded as I considered the two months a wasted season. As time went by, I made up my mind to find out a better way to get things done. At another year, I decided to do something but by the end of the fourth month, I discovered that I haven't started at all. In fact, I thought there was a devil somewhere that was really affecting me.

One day, I came to understand that success is not in view until you set a plan and work with your plan. I got to know that if only I could set my daily time for a task and follow the plan, success would be guaranteed. Prior before this time, I used to make plans in my head but as I grew, I began to make plans on paper. The fact is that if you can set plans and follow your plans daily or weekly, you will be diligent.

Setting your plans and following it are what makes you diligent. You don't just set a plan without following it. It takes intelligence to set your daily or weekly plans, but it takes diligence to follow it. Anyone who can plan and execute the plans has combined intelligence with diligence.

DILIGENCE WILL TAKE YOU TO SUPERIOR HEIGHT.

In life, nobody is born superior. It is thinking and accomplishments that makes superior. What a person knows make him or her superior to you. The position a person occupies make them superior to you. You must never look down on yourself for where you are now is not your ultimate. You can still go higher and as long as the opportunity lies ahead of you, you will surely go beyond where you are now.

Where you are today, notwithstanding, is a stage of life. Vision may show you the height God wants you to reach, it is diligence that will take you there. In my book, *WisdomPower*, I wrote that vision will show you there but wisdom will take you there. Let me explain it. It's one thing to move ahead, it's another to get above. Wisdom will take you ahead but diligence will take you above. Deuteronomy 28:1 says *"Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God... That your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth."* Do you see that? If you diligently obey, you will evidently go above.

Wisdom may get you ahead, it is diligence that will get you above. To be ahead is to get into the future before others but to be above is to rule in life. Anyone above will become the model for others to emulate. You must be ahead and above. You should be able to combine wisdom with diligence to be ahead and above. It takes insight (wisdom) to get ahead but it takes consistency of actions and doing (diligence) to get above.

To get to the superior height in your field, you need to be highly diligent. Diligent with what? You need to be diligent not just with actions but with results. If your result is consistent, you will always scale higher and higher.

You have a place at the top. Only those who see what lies ahead take steps toward it. The moment you begin to take steps to reach your goals, you are demonstrating diligence.

MOVE FROM CONSISTENCY OF DOING TO CONSISTENCY OF RESULTS

Students celebrate their teachers for what he knows, you celebrate yourself for what you do, but people will only celebrate you for what you achieve. What you do is superior to what you know or said. What you achieve is superior to what you do. Any doing or actions that doesn't end up in great results and accomplishments shouldn't be celebrated, or else, it will limit you.

Many people have perfected consistency of action or doing but only few have mastered consistency of results. If your result is not consistent, you are diligent at a low level. High level people understand the power of consistency of results. You have to keep improving and achieving. If what was celebrated about you by everyone yesterday is still your achievement today, you will soon go into extinction. This is the reason you will say some people who called you a mentor yesterday are not loyal to you today. No! They are loyal, it's just that they have discovered that you are a past or old version of yourself in your present. God puts in everyone the desire to always crave for more. So, when those who look up to you yesterday discover that you have not upgraded to a higher version of yourself, the moment they come in contact with someone who have improved and grown himself, they may leave you. That they leave you doesn't mean they are wicked or disloyal, they have only responded to the upward call to come to a higher version of themselves.

If your result is not consistent, you will soon lose relevance. This is why you must be innovative and creative. Consistent results will always demand creativity and innovation. Every new season demands new approach and new results. If you keep doing the same thing the same way, you may soon get into

extinction. You must always come up with a new way of doing things to be consistent with results.

For me, diligence is about being consistent with results. Every season, I am not trying to achieve the same measure I achieved last season, I am always attempting to do more and achieve more. Achievement, productivity or results may take you ahead but it takes more achievement, more productivity and more results to be above. That's why you must relax too early. You need to get sense early that you must always have more of what brought celebration last season to be above this season. That is why you must learn to double your results every season.

I don't like to listen to some people because they are not results oriented. How can you be above when you are not results oriented? There is no one who will be around me that will not be results oriented. I believe in productivity. I believe in results. I believe in great achievement. How can you rule when you are not consistent with great results? If the numbers of customers, clients or members you have last season is still the same you have now, you are a gross failure. You need to be diligent to keep increasing the numbers of your clients or customers. If your patronage has not increased beyond what it was last year, you are not consistent with results. To be consistent with results is to achieve more results than what you achieve last season.

You must not get used to being celebrated too soon. Often, those who are celebrated too soon are relegated too soon. Most times, because some people don't have the opportunity to be exposed to the world of others to know what they have achieved, they feel too big and celebrate too early the little they have achieved. I heard that you should celebrate your little success, well that's good but that's not my ideology. I don't celebrate my little success; I only thank God for my little success expecting

Him to do more for me. Celebrating your little success may be your trap.

There are many things I have achieved in life but I don't get into the public to boast about it or shout about it. I may share testimonies before God's people because I know when I give glory to God in the assembly of the saints, He will do more for me. But to celebrate my little success, never. Everyone should always give glory to God for whatever they have accomplished, and as they do, God will do more for them, if they can be diligent to do what He puts in their heart. One time, a young man boast about how he wrote five books within ten months. Well, that is commendable, but that young man if he was exposed to the world of others, he would know that he could have done more with that time. What if he's exposed to the world of another person that wrote over seventy-seven books in less than ten months? Would he still be bold to celebrate the five he wrote? That's it. Someone may say how's that possible. Well, it's possible. I proved it. I wrote over seventy-seven books in less than ten months. Yet, I still think to myself that I could have done more. When I see several notes I have written, I often say to myself that I could have done more.

Do you want to go far and high? Then, stop celebrating small success and invest the energy you used to celebrate in achieving more. When you use the time you should have used to celebrate your little success to do more and achieve more, the world will use their time to celebrate your more success. Do you understand this last statement? Rather than celebrating yourself, achieve more and let the world celebrate you. The world doesn't celebrate little success; they celebrate great success. It's time you are consistent with achieving great results so the world can continue to celebrate you.

DILIGENCE ENHANCES CONTINUITY

Anybody can start but can they continue? Finishing is more important than starting. Continuity can't be in place when you are not diligent. It's diligence that will make you continue. Where diligence stops is where movement stops.

Why will a person continue doing the same thing when he's not getting the desired results? Diligence is the reason. To lack diligence is to lack continuity.

You are not committed because you lack diligence. So also you are not consistent because you lack diligence. Lack commitment is a report card that you lack diligence.

3

DILIGENCE IS THE WAY TO EXCEL

“Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before unknown men” Proverbs 22:29.

To excel is to do something better than most people. Those who exceed their past achievements and that of others are the ones that excels. You can't exceed and not excel. You know years ago when I was in the primary and secondary school, one of prayer points I know ministers prayed to God on behalf of students is that God should cause them to excel in their academics. It was later after I grew up to learned that even though they have prayed for us to excel in our academics, we still needed to read. Students need to learn that they can't excel in their studies if they are not studious.

Who are kings? A king is not just the monarch with crown in the palace. A king is a phenomenon that has a position of power, influence and affluence. Scriptures says that the crown of the wise is their riches. In other words, anyone that is rich has a crown and as such, he is a king. Rich people are kings. Political

figures in powers – governors, senators, presidents – are kings. We have to learn also that there are authority figures in different professions and the business world. The CEOs, M. Ds, Secretary General, COO, Principals, Directors are all kings in their cadre.

To stand before kings is to appear before them. In other words, when you are called to speak at a board room or called upon to analyze how you intend to execute a project, then, you are standing before kings. I want you to get the picture. If all the above mentioned people sits at a board room, council meeting, executive meeting and you are brought to address them. Do you know that you will not sit to address them? You will have to stand to talk there. The moment you stand; you are now standing before kings. If you are called to speak before the parliamentary members at the National Assembly of your country, you won't sit to talk to them, you will stand – that is standing before kings.

An ignoramus who doesn't know anything cannot stand before kings. When you stand before kings, it therefore means the kings are sitting before you while you address them. This is what happens to great preachers too. When men of different caliber – kings, politicians, business people, erudite scholars, students, career professionals – sit in the congregation and the preacher stands before them to speak, that preacher has fulfilled the scripture by standing before kings. The period a preacher stands before the congregation to speak, he is standing before kings because all believers are kings. That is the reason, a preacher that is not grounded and grown cannot speak at some occasions. The fact many young preachers don't know is that it takes quality investment of time, learning, preparing messages and vastness of insight to be able to speak to some cadre of people.

To excel in your work is to do your work better than others.

If you know it better, can do it better and deliver effectively, important people will call for you one day. That is the reason you should have track record of success. You should know that the little things you do today, if it is successfully accomplished, it will be part of your success track record tomorrow. Those who excel don't stand before ordinary people. Everyone starts with ordinary people, but those who excel will end up with important people. If kings (important people) have not started calling for you, then, you have not excel. You don't need to do any verbal announcement when your work excels, it announces itself. If you have to tell us yourself all you have achieve, then, your achievement hasn't excelled. When you excel, your news will spread and reach important people.

It is not what you do today that will determine where you will stand tomorrow. It is how you work today that determines where you will stand tomorrow. This is where diligence comes in. If you don't work well today, you can't stand before kings tomorrow. Your diligence today will determine those that will need your service tomorrow. Your starting will not bring you before kings, it is success at your previous level that will bring you before kings.

To be diligent is to be consistent and hardworking. If you are not consistent, you cannot excel. And when you don't excel, you cannot stand before kings. Whatever you do today should be done better, whoever receives your service today should always receive the best. Why? It is those who got your service yesterday and today that will talk about you to kings tomorrow. Many who receives your service now are ordinary people who have access to the kings. They may not be the king but they have access to the king. So, if you are not consistent, how can you excel at what you do.

Joseph was consistent with service wherever he finds himself. He just loves to do things appropriately. And that earned him leadership at Potiphar's house and prison. If you are working in a place, take the work as your work because it is through that work you can create your track record of success. If you truly desire to be the best at your work, you have to be consistent with what you do and achieve today. You may be tired, discouraged, disappointed, but you must never permit that to affect your consistency. Let me tell you, I write books and make it free for people to download except for the ones printed that are sold at cheaper prizes. But you need to find out the investment of time to write. There are days I was tired but didn't stop. In fact, as I write this book you are reading, my body system suggests I should relax but I wouldn't do that because I know that diligent people don't relax until they have achieved their task. At a particular stage in my life, I was extremely sick that I couldn't travel or go anywhere. I was just indoor. But do you know that that was the period I wrote many books that are blessing to many today? I didn't just eat and sleep, waiting to get healed, I got my hand into writing and today the rest is history. It takes diligence to do that. As you advance in life, you must set your mind on being consistent with results so you may always excel in your work.

DILIGENT PEOPLE ENJOYS FAVOR

It takes refinement of skills, gifts, grace to be able to stand before kings. Anyone may desire to stand before kings, but if you are not called, you cannot be there. Joseph didn't appear before Pharaoh himself, he was called there. I have learned that your desire will not make you to be called for, it is quality of what you can supply that will compel them to call for you. This is

where many have misinterpreted the favor of God. The favor of God will work more for a person who has develop himself more than the person who has failed to develop himself. The favor of God cannot get for you what you cannot do. Let's assume the favor of God is on a fashion designer. And all that person can design are native or senate attires. Do you realize God's favor on you will only draw people who wants to sow or design native attires? Those who need suits cannot come towards your direction simply because you have determined what favor should bring toward your direction. So, if you want favor to draw those who need suits to you, you have to go learn how to sow and design suits.

Don't deceive yourself, it is not favor that will bring you before kings. It is what you can do that will bring you before them. God's favor will now work for you when you are before them. If you don't excel in your work, that is, to be the best at what you do, you may carry God's favor on you, but you won't come before kings. I know some people may disagree with me, but that is the truth. You know, there are people who will just say the favor of God can do anything. Yes, I believe in favor. In fact, I have written about six books on favor. But I understand that favor cannot make you do what you have not learned. Favor works with what you have learned, what you can do and before who you are found.

Before you pray that God should bring you before kings, ask yourself, what can I do better? Kings are not seeking those who can do things, they seek those who can do it better. In fact, kings seek those who can do what others cannot do. Anyone that has advanced his gifts, skills or competence will one day end up before kings with the favor of God. How can you be recommended when you are not the best at what you do? Don't

deceive yourself. I see many pastors in ministry who don't see the need to learn the administrative part of ministry. All they do is to read the bible and pray. Yes, that is good, but not enough. There are technicalities you have to learn so you can lead God's people effectively. There are skills – like organizing training, people's skill, deployment of talents, development of leaders, managing conflicts, creation of departments, and so on. All these I mentioned are not achieved through fasting, you have to give yourself to learning and practicing of what you have learned.

In the marketplace and workplace, you have to develop yourself to a level where you cannot be replaced. Don't just claim God's favor, the question is, do you have the skills and competence others don't have? If you have not been considered as the best in a place, you may soon be replaced. Good character is not a substitute for competence. In the body of Christ, believers have been taught to have good character so they can last in the marketplace and workplace. But the fact is that if you have good character but lack competence, you will one day be replaced or not considered for promotion. Sometimes, those who get promotion at workplaces are not with good character but superior competence. If you have good character but lack competence, they will keep you in the position you are. Do you desire to be promoted at your workplace? Then, get trained. Acquire the skills that will make you irreplaceable. It may take you to attend a school, training or even take a professional course. Whatever is needed should be done so you can really advance in your field.

STOP PROCRASTINATION!

Diligence is a “do it now spirit”. Of course, you know when

I mean spirit, I don't mean a particular spirit entity in the spirit realm. No! I just mean that diligence is a force. Those who procrastinate are the ones that are not diligent. You cannot be diligent and permit procrastination around you. To procrastinate your task is to procrastinate your success. You have to stop doing later, what you should do now.

In your life, let today count for your success. Whatever can cause you to procrastinate your work has conquered your diligence. Anytime I made up my mind to do something, I start immediately. Often times, postponing when to start kills zeal. Many are wasting ignorantly by procrastinating their task. If you don't have a supervisor, then, set a daily plan to supervise you. Your daily plan should be your supervisor.

Many are battling with delay because of procrastination. Even when the devil wants to hinder a person, the moment he knows that the person procrastinates a lot, he come in through procrastination. Every time you procrastinate, you have delayed a results or greatness that should happen in your life. Every day has its work and task. If you push what you should do today till tomorrow, you have indirectly affected what you should do tomorrow.

The next time you feel like pushing your task to the next hour, day or week, you've got to speak to yourself to do it now and move yourself into it. This is where discipline comes in. Procrastination is a neighbor of the undisciplined. To push your task today till tomorrow is to push your success tomorrow into the days ahead. React and reject all suggestions to do tomorrow the things you should do today. Henceforth, you've got to rise to do your task now.

YOU MUST WORK!

Jesus said *“My father has been working until now and I have been working”* John 5:17. Do you see that? Jesus said God the Father works. The question then is that if God works, who are you not to work? God is not just a Creator; He is also a Worker. Nobody gave Him the work He does, He gave Himself the works to do. In another place, Jesus said *“I must work the works of Him who sent me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work”* John 9:4. Evidently, you see that it is not only the Father that works, the Son (Jesus) also worked. The same Jesus said *“The works that I do bear witness of me”* John 5:36. I shared these so you can know there is even the concept of work in the God class.

Laziness makes people not to work, diligence makes them to work. Anyone that doesn't like working is lazy. In the New Testament, the command by God is that whoever will not work should not eat (2 Thess. 3:10). A believer who doesn't find something doing is a bundle of shame. If you don't see the need to work, neither should you see the need to eat.

Work – whether hard work, head work, homework and hand work – it has to be done diligently. It is diligence that makes you work to work. it is time you began to work your work. Whatever you have prayed for, it is time you began to work it out. There is dignity in all labor. Those who do their work are the ones that work their work.

Diligence doesn't show through what you know; it shows through what you do. We can't know whether you are diligent or not until you get to work. it is through work that you show your consistency and commitment. Nobody is qualified for rest until he or she has work.

Proverbs 24:27 says *“Prepare your outside work, make it fit for yourself in the field; and afterward build your house.”* In other words, you should build your business or career before you build

your house. God wants you to prioritize your work before you house. He knows when you settle your work, the profit you make from your work will build your house. In fact, you may not even use your money to build your house when you work successfully. The success of your work can get you the house you didn't build yourself.

There are many young people seeking job opportunity here and there. They keep looking for jobs across places when God can see inside of them many jobs they can create. If you don't have a job, you can create one. Don't ever sit idly at home, do something. If you can't create a job or start a business, then, look for a place you can offer free service for sometimes. Rather than sitting at home, you may seek where to work freely without receiving salary. Volunteer and you will later add that to your work experience. You may not receive the salary but you are receiving practical knowledge of how things are done.

Many graduates seeking job opportunities may need to go learn a skill. We are getting to that time the illiterates will be the ones creating jobs for the literates. Sometimes, you may need to put aside your degree and get into doing work outside your field of study. Sometimes ago, a brother with his master's degree couldn't get a job. He was tired of sitting at home and later resolved to stop seeking jobs and find a work to do. If you are still with your parents after you have graduated while seeking a job, you may not understand the pain because your parents will feed you and still give you money. But those who have no parents to give them money or feed them after they graduated would certain see the need to get a job or involve in a work early. The brother thought about what to do and resolved into driving. He realized that since he had learned driving, he could take driving work pending the time he gets a job. That brother later

got an opportunity to be an Uber driver. He started driving a Uber car and from there he got his daily and monthly earning. The brother drove that car for nine months, saved money and got his own car. In fact, he couldn't pay for the car once since he didn't have all the money, but paid instalment. The brother later got the idea of getting more cars and employ drivers to drive it. That was how this brother became an employer. This brother is in millions today.

The problem with many seeking jobs is that they haven't identified what they have or what they can do. If you don't look inward for the treasures in you, you will keep looking at other people's treasure. Nobody owns you anything. You are not a shareholder in anybody's wealth. They labored to get theirs, you also need to labor to get yours. Do you know that there were contemporaries of that brother who were still seeking jobs after this brother took the driving work? They would still continue seeking jobs after he got all his cars and employed people. There is dignity in all labor. Don't think you have belittled yourself if you take some jobs. You may not continue with the work but you have to start somewhere. It is pride that makes many people think they can't take certain jobs and that is why they remain in lack. Some graduates need to go learn about fashion designing, saloon, water production and so on. If you don't do any work, you cannot earn any money. Spiritual blessings come through your belief in Jesus and through prayers but financial blessings come through your financial intelligence and work. The moment you have a work, be diligent with it.

Some people need to stop seeking who will give them money and start seeking where to work or which work to do. The reason some jobless people are not creative is because they have somebody feeding them or giving them money. You see, hunger

opens the brain of people to work. Hunger can impart the zeal to work on you. The reason some people are lazy, just sitting at home is because they have not suffered hunger. Well, God doesn't want His children to suffer hunger, but you must bear in mind that He already commanded that whoever will not work should not eat. Some people need mind shift. You need to shift your mind from those who give you money freely to seeking the work to do. Whatever money you get should always come from the work you do. If someone decides to give you money freely out of his will, that is a special case. But to expect people to give you money because they are your family members or friends is a sign that you have entitlement mentality. If you don't change your mind, you will really suffer poverty. Let your work give you money. Some children need to stop depending on their parents. That dependent spirits affects young people's mind that even after they graduated, they still want their parents to continue sending money to them. You need to shift now. Your money shouldn't come from people but from your work. You've got to let your work pay you now. Let's people give you money for the work you have done. Does that mean I don't know that relationship also pay people? No! I know relationship pays people but I don't want you to depend on relationship because life happens to people. So, when life happens, your income flow will not also happen (cease).

DILIGENT PEOPLE ARE HARDWORKING PEOPLE

"It is good for a man to bear the yoke in his youth" Lamentation 3:27 (NKJV)

"It is good for someone to work hard while he is young" Lamentation 3:27 (Expanded Bible)

"It is good for a young man to be under discipline" Lamentation

3:27 (TLB)

Years back, I heard a preacher quoted this verse from the King James Version and it hasn't left me. That preacher encouraged us to bear our yoke at our younger age. I was nineteen years when I heard that. That message really imparted zeal into me at my early age. In the 21st century, hardly will you find people who understand yoke. Those who are into cattle rearing or who had village life will definitely understand that. I won't dive into talking about all of that. But here is it. In scriptural terms, to bear your yoke in your youth is to work hard while you are young. In other words, that discipline that imparts hard work to you is a blessing to you. If you don't carry your yoke when you are young, you will either carry it at old age or not satisfied at old age. If you work hard when you are young, you will enjoy when you are old.

Anyone within the ages of one to sixty is still young. By the time you go beyond sixty, you are now getting old. It doesn't matter your age, as long as you are below sixty, you are still young. The emphasis of the Living Bible is discipline. Obviously, if you are disciplined, you will work hard and not play when you should be working.

You cannot be hardworking if you have not conquered oversleeping, pleasures and distractions. If you oversleep today, you will suffer much tomorrow. In the school of diligence, hardworking is a special course. You cannot be consistent when you are not hardworking. In fact, consistency of actions and results is a proof that you are hardworking. Many have left success to chance but don't know that it doesn't work that way. Success is not hard to get; it is the work that is hard to do. As long as you give yourself to working, success is guaranteed for

you.

The bigger the success, the bigger the responsibility you should be ready to carry out. Never tell God to bless you more if you are not ready to do more. More blessing brings more responsibility. The top is desirable for all, but only the hardworking gets there.

We live in a generation where smart work is the emphasis. Well, perspectives are not gotten right because many don't understand some fact. Here is it, smart work is brain work. There is a clear difference between brain work and hand work. The top managers and executives, decision makers and board of directors are the ones that do the brain work while the technical workers carry out the handwork. Often when young folks hear smart work, they feel it's some easy work meant for brilliant scholars that earn in millions. Well, you have to know henceforth that smart work refers to brain work. The ability to generate ideas and strategy, work with your brain is smart work. Creativity and innovation is the ultimate start line for smart work.

Here is my belief, whether it is smart work or hand work, you still have to be hardworking. To be hardworking is to be industrious. Anyone that is hardworking is working with a lot of effort. Hardworking doesn't suggest doing something hard, but inserting your whole effort in seeing great results are accomplished. It takes diligence to see that a task work out as planned. This is one of the qualities many company staff lack. They want to earn more but don't want to give more of their time, energy and effort to see that great task are accomplished. My counsel to you is that you should give more of your effort to the progress of your company before you demand for more salary. Until you give more, you are not qualified to get more.

Those who are diligent will be consistent and committed wherever they find themselves. A person who is not committed to a task can never work with a lot of effort. That is one issue with formal education. Many students are trained to be professionals and skilled but not trained to be committed wherever they find themselves. If they have to encourage or inspire you before you invest much effort in a task, you are not diligent. Even king Solomon said *“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going”* Ecclesiastes 9:10.

You have to ensure that you are more committed and consistent with execution of task. Anything you are given should be done with all your might – that is what it means to be hardworking. If you are hardworking indeed, you will invest all your effort in seeing a task is well accomplished. You must avoid the trick of handling other people’s work with levity. Whatever a man sow, he shall reap, says Paul. If you treat other people’s work with levity, those that will come your way to will handle things concerning your life with levity.

WHEN OTHERS AVOID IT, FACE IT

Lazy people run away from difficult task, but diligent people face it. It takes diligence to do what others run away from until you do it successfully. In other words, where others run away from, diligence will make you remain there.

You cannot be diligent and not be patient. Diligence impart patience. Those who lack patience will end up lacking diligence. You cannot be diligent and not endure and expect. In fact, diligence set the pace for great expectations. Those who are consistent and committed are always expecting something unusual to happen. Breakthrough will always be found on the

other side of barriers. Until a barrier is seen, breakthrough is not in view. You will only breakthrough a barrier you confront.

Quit complaining. Nothing is difficult to achieve if you will remain consistent. In fact, the challenges you are faced with may be an attestation that you are really making progress. That is the reason you don't mind the mockery of men, you should mind your focus. Your focus should be on where you are going and what you intend to achieve.

When I went into full time ministry, there was no money, no shelter, no support from elders and friends. The close allies that supported me did that in their heart, they didn't voice their support neither do they give anything. In fact, many mocked and abused me. It was very worse that I had no money to get a house rent, I only had the privilege to stay at a brother's place. This continued for about two years before things began to change. Do you realize that in spite of all I went through, I didn't regret going into ministry, I didn't quit? I faced it. I was sure that the God who called me and put me in the ministry didn't put me there to suffer. I knew that my light affliction was working in me an eternal weight of glory. And today, all those pains are now history. Does that mean pressure didn't come? Well, it came but I never gave into it. I was so confident that all was for a short time. In fact, I never call people to support me but relied on God. I faced it, endure and enjoyed the whole process and today, it is history.

Whatever you are going through today is what you have the power to overcome. You must not compare yourself to others. Whatever is your work, just be consistent with doing it and be open to creativity. Be sensitive to make changes when need be. Your progress is a subtotal of the changes you make. You may not need to change the work but change your actions and

strategy. I know of contemporary pastors who quitted ministry because they couldn't endure the pressure there. You need the resilience to confront what scares others. Whatever you are going through may be part of your making process. So, quitting may result in an abortion of divine process going on in your life. You ensure you are consistent and committed and soon, everything will turn around for your good.

Anytime you come across adverse situation pressing on you, it is an indication that your season of advancement is close by because it is adversity that leads to advancement. The next time you are confronted with adversity that discourages or scares others, you should know that God has presented you an opportunity to deal with a situation that will lead to your prosperity and greatness.

I have learned that every great season of harvest is preceded by a great season of sacrifice. Don't expect to reap success until you are prepared to sacrifice whatever will qualify you for the harvest of success.

4

ENTERING INTO PROMINENCE

Diligence is the doorway to prominence and eminence. Stop seeking to be prominent, start seeking to be diligent. Rather than seeking to be prominent, be diligent and watch how diligence will bring you into prominence.

Your diligence will make those above you to begin to look towards you for direction. Diligence makes you a force and voice. When you achieve what others struggle to achieve or what no one has achieved in your territory, your news will spread abroad. And when everyone begins to hear about you here and there, you have come into prominence.

Rather than seeking to be known, do your work and the success of your work will make you known. Intelligence may speak, but it is diligence that shows. When you speak more than you show, it is obvious that you are not diligent. You can't be diligent and not have something great and tangible to show for it. With diligence, what you have achieved will carry your news to places farther than your reach.

As you come into spotlight, you will face criticism, opposition,

attacks and mockery. People will do all kind of things to you but you must not be ashamed or discouraged. That is one of the signs of prominence. You are more important than your critics. How you respond is more powerful than what they said about you. Whatever criticizes or attacks you wants to distract you. You must refuse to give in to distractions and be more diligent.

A lesson the Lord taught me at a stage in my life when I was faced with opposition and attack is to increase my diligence when attack and opposition increases. Any time opposition or criticism arise against you, that is the time to be more focused on your work.

Diligence will not only get you into prominence, it will also sustain your prominence. In other words, consistency of results will get you to the top, it is also consistency of results that will keep you there. Evidently, I understand the place of character, but I want you to know that if you have good character but lack consistency of results, you cannot stay at the top.

There is no task that is too hard to do, a task will be too hard for you because you are not diligent. God told the Israelites to march round the wall of Jericho once for six days and march round the wall seven times on the seventh day. They did exactly. If it were to be some people, they could have assumed that moving round it ones on the seventh can still produce the results. As I read the account of the wall of Jericho in the scripture, I discovered that it took diligence to move round the city from the first day till the seventh times on the seventh day. Do you realize that nothing happened for about six days? That is what happens when you are diligent. You may keep doing the work – consistent and committed – but notice nothing is happening in the physical as a form of results. You must not give up but be well informed that the result are not designed to happen in the beginning but

in the end.

PAY ATTENTION TO DETAILS

The Israelites were told to move round the city once for six days and seven times on the seventh day. Many people were after the wall of Jericho that fell, but didn't pay attention to the actions that led to that. We should praise God for the display of His mighty power, but we should also commend the Israelites for being diligent to carry out the details instructed.

When you are instructed, if you failed to pay attention to details, even if you are consistent and committed, you may not get the desired results. Sometimes, it is not just about obedient, it is about being diligent to pay attention to details.

When relating with God or your leader at workplace, you have to pay attention to details of instructions. Don't just pay attention to the points, give diligent attention to the details. Anyone who doesn't pay attention to details will end up doing the wrong things. Do you know that how you are told to do things is more important than what you are told to do? So, when you have to execute a task, it is more about how you should do it than what you should do.

A fashion designer knows that you don't satisfy a customer by sowing the cloths but by designing the style the customer wants. Before you embark on any task, you must always find out the detail that will work that out. The detail is more powerful than the action. It is by following details that we get the right results.

SEVEN AREAS TO APPLY DILIGENCE

Anytime you are told to be diligent, you are simply told to be hardworking, consistent and committed. You can't claim to be diligent when you are not consistent and committed to work.

Let's identify seven areas to apply diligence.

1. You have to be diligent (consistent and committed) to seek the Lord

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” Hebrew 11:6.

God rewards different people. He rewards those who serve Him. That is the reason you must not joke with kingdom service. You must give yourself to serving the Lord fervently. If they have to inspire or motivate you before you participate in the church workforce, evangelism, and so on, then, you are not ready to be rewarded by the Lord. I serve the Lord wholeheartedly because I know He will reward me.

The Hebrew writer clearly reveals another kind of people that the Lord rewards. They are the seekers of the Lord. Those who seek Him by faith in prayers will surely be rewarded by Him. Praying to the Lord to meet your need is different from seeking the Lord in prayers. To seek the Lord in prayers is to seek to know Him more and more. That is why two things can be gotten in prayers – answers and rewards.

When you pray to the Lord to meet your need, you will surely receive an answer. But when you pray to Him to know Him more and more, you will get a reward. In meeting your need, you pray to the Lord fervently, but in knowing Him, you seek Him diligently. To seek Him diligently is to be committed to knowing Him more and be consistent in prayers. Many only know how to get answers but don't know how to get rewards. Revelations about the Lord are not answers to prayers but reward of seeking

the Lord.

How you become a diligent seeker of the Lord is through three ways – you fast, you pray, you get into scriptures. When your motive of fasting is not because of the material things you want to get but to know the Lord, you have become a diligent seeker of the Lord. Eternal treasures like some kinds of gifts, graces, revelation about the Lord are not answers but reward. Remember God told Abraham that He is Abraham’s exceeding great reward (Genesis 15:1).

To get rewards, you don’t seek the Lord conveniently but consistently. There are certain divine elements that doesn’t respond to asking but consistency. You don’t know the Lord more and more by just asking to know Him, you know Him more and more by consistently seeking Him. If you will know the Lord more and more, you have to consistently study the scriptures.

1. You have to be diligent (consistent and committed) to seek wisdom

“I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently will find me” Proverbs 8:17.

Wisdom refers to great insight into the unseen and the future. The ability to see from within you the right things to do to get the desired results is referred to as wisdom. Wisdom is not gotten cheaply; you have to seek it diligently to have it. You can either seek to receive wisdom from God or men.

Wisdom will not be far from those who seek it consistently. When you read books, you are seeking to get the hidden wisdom there. One of the purposes of listening to mentors and fathers is to receive the wisdom hidden within them.

Wisdom herself spoke from the above passage that those who seek her diligently will find her. To seek wisdom diligently is to ask questions and search for it consistently. If you don't know how to ask questions, you don't know how to seek wisdom.

Another way through which you seek wisdom is through meditation. Those who take time to think will always have uncommon insight into things. It takes uncommon insight to do uncommon things. When you see someone doing an exploit you really desire, you have to find a way to get the wisdom of that person. If you can get the wisdom of that person, you can command the exploits he or she commands.

1. You have to be diligent (consistent and committed) to seek blessings

“For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears” Hebrew 12:17.

From the above scripture, it is evident that Esau sought blessing diligently with tears from his father. Yes, all believers have been blessed with spiritual blessings in Christ, but you need to be blessed on earth too. What are the ways through which you seek blessings consistently?

Acts 20:35 says “... it is more blessed to give than to receive.” Do you see this? Evidently, every time you give to the Lord, you are simply telling the Lord to bless you. Every time you give your tithe to the Lord, you are simply telling Him to open the window of heaven and pour you a blessing (Malachi 3:10).

By revelation, I discover that one of the ways you seek blessing consistently is to give to the Lord consistently. Diligent givers

are consistent receivers of blessing. To give out of what God has given you back to Him is to receive part of what He (God) has that He hasn't given you.

Obedience to divine instruction is another way to diligently seek blessings. When you are obedient to divine instruction, you provoke a blessing. Obedience is a transmitter of blessing. Any time God gives you an instruction, He has marked you for a blessing.

Do you know you can receive blessing from both your biological and spiritual parents? You may need to read the book I wrote on "Managing Divine People" to know how to entreat the blessing of these people.

1. You have to be diligent (consistent and committed) to obey God

"Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth" Deuteronomy 28:1.

God didn't say you should diligently hear His voice but to obey it. Many believers have perfected the art of hearing God but only few have mastered the art of obeying Him. Only those who diligently obey the Lord that are highly exalted by the Lord.

Obedying God may not be convenient but it is profitable. God will never command you to do what will harm you. Lack of diligence makes believers delay obeying the Lord. Instruction from God are not for analysis or evaluation, they are for execution. You don't think on divine instruction, you just obey.

A sign that you are diligent at obeying God is that you take

prompt actions immediately you receive the instruction. Diligence is always finding out what actions to take. If you don't jump into actions, you may end up disobeying God.

1. You have to be diligent (consistent and committed) in leading well

“Be diligent to know the state of your flocks and attend to your herds”

Proverbs 27:23

“He who exhort, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness”
Romans 12:8.

Leadership is not just about influence, it is about leading people in the right direction and getting them into the place God wants them to be. If you are not diligent, you cannot lead well.

Diligence in leadership is about seeking the wellbeing of those you lead and ensuring that they are in the right direction. Anyone who doesn't have time for the people he or she leads is not diligent in leadership. Solomon counseled that you should be diligent to know the state of your flocks. That suggests proper monitoring, regular checkup and consistent guidance. We are in a time that some leaders don't know the state of those they lead neither do they care about them.

Before you become a leader, your success is about you. But when you become a leader, your success is about the success of others. Genuine leadership is paying the sacrifice for others to rise. If you cannot bear with the weaknesses of others, you cannot be a leader.

Paul admonished that those who lead should do so with

diligence. A bible translation reveals that to lead diligently is to lead with all your passion and effort. A leader ensures the corporate vision is achieved and see to the unity of those he leads.

1. You have to be diligent (consistent and committed) to your work

“Work hard so God can say to you, ‘well done.’ Be a good workman, one who does not need to be ashamed when God examines your work. know what His word says and means” 2 Timothy 2:15.

If God can say well done, then, men can also say well done. Even God cannot commend a lazy person regardless of how well he loves the person. You have to be diligent with your work.

Paul told Timothy to work hard so God can say well done to him. Do you know that Timothy was a pastor? If Paul told Timothy to work hard, it therefore means that all ministers of God in ministry must work hard. If you are a pastor and you are not working hard, God cannot say well done to you. The reason I work the way I work is because I want God to say well done to me. The way God commend those who do well is by releasing more blessing and grace on them. When God adds more grace to you, He is simply saying well done.

A worker at a company must ensure he or she works hard so the boss can commend him. You have to be highly committed to the progress of wherever you work so you can receive well done from the Lord. Stop seeking commendation and start working hard. When you work hard, you will end up being commended.

1. You have to be diligent (consistent and committed) to praise the Lord

“We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers” 1 Thessalonians 1:2.

To be consistent and committed to praising God always is a sign that you trust in God always. Paul told the Thessalonians that he and his missionary team were always praising God for them and praying for them. The focus is the word “always.”

Those who praise God always are the one that will always provoke his hands always. You cannot claim you love the Lord when you are not ready to praise Him. If what you are going through will rob God of His praise from you, then, you are not mature.

What is the conclusion? Ensure you praise the Lord always and you will continue to see His goodness in your life.

ABOUND (INCREASE) IN DILIGENCE

“But as you abound in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us—see that you abound in this grace also” 2 Corinthians 8:7.

To abound in something is to increase in that thing. If you abound in knowledge, that means you increase in knowledge. According to Paul, the Corinthian believers abound in diligence.

If you are a believer and you don’t increase your consistency and commitments, then, you are not a worthy example to others. It is increase of your commitment to your task that earn you increase of results. How do you intend to get more when you are not investing more energy and time in your work?

If your diligence will increase, you must be ready to reduce many things. To increase your diligence, you will need to reduce

your sleep, conversation with people, leisure. When you reduce things that can waste your time and concentrate on activities that will make you more productive, then, you will abound in diligence.

There was a particular time in my life I needed to go off social media platforms so I could concentrate execution of task. This doesn't mean you should also go off social media. But I needed to do that because my assignment demanded that I should do that to be more effective and consistent.

Diligence will not increase by itself. You have to give away something to get something. You may need to give your week-ends to doing some routines to abound in diligence. The end of it is that you will end up becoming a model of diligence to others through the works you do.

POSSESS DILIGENCE

“The lazy man does not roast what he took in hunting, But diligence is man’s precious possession” Proverbs 12:27.

I will never forget the day I got to know that diligence is something you have to possess. Diligence as a possession is not a quality you have but the property you have. In other words, when we see your business, company, degrees, organizations, houses, what you have produced, we will know your diligence.

The Easy to Read version says *“Lazy people don’t get what they want, but riches come to those who work hard.”* The possession of the diligence is his riches. If you are working hard, even if you don’t have the riches now, your riches are in view.

You have to work hard so you can possess what diligence gives. You must move from wishing to do your work to working to do it. The moment you begin to have your success, riches and properties, then, you are possessing diligence.

Proverbs 21:5 says *“The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, But those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty.”* If you are diligent, you will make plans and follow your plans. You must be consistent with strategic thinking to find out how you can have more and possess more. The plans that lead to plenty starts with number. You must be specific with the plenty you want. You have to know the amount of money you desire to make in a year. When you define the target number or amount, how to get it will come to you.

RESULTS OF DILIGENCE

As I conclude this book, I will use scriptures to explain this aspect. I will not insert my words but use different translations to show you the results of diligence. Let’s check four results of diligence.

1) The soul of the diligent shall be made rich.

Proverbs 13:4 says

“The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing; But the soul of the diligent shall be made rich.” (NKJV)

“The desire of the lazy is strong, but they get nothing, but desire of those who work hard will be satisfied” (Expanded Bible)

“Indolence wants it all and gets nothing; the energetic have something to show for their lives.” (Message Bible)

“Lazy people always want things but never get them. Those who work hard get plenty” (Easy to Read Version).

2) The hand of the diligent shall rule.

Proverbs 12:24 says

“The hand of the diligent will rule, But the lazy man will be put to forced labor.” (NKJV).

“Those who work hard will be put in charge of others, but lazy people will have to work like slaves.” (ERV)

“Hard workers will become leaders [be in charge], but those who are lazy will be slaves [put to forced labor].” (Expanded Bible)

“Work hard and become a leader; be lazy and never succeed.” (TLB)

3) The diligent will have Plenty.

Proverbs 21:5 says

“The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, But those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty.” (NKJV)

“The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty” (NIV)

“The thoughts of the [steadily] diligent tend only to plentifulness, but everyone who is impatient and hasty hastens only to want” (AMP)

4) The hand of the diligent shall be made rich.

Proverbs 10:4 says

“Lazy men are soon poor; hard workers get rich” (TLB)

“Sloth makes you poor; diligence brings wealth” (The Message Bible)

“Lazy hands make for poverty, but diligent hands bring wealth” (NIV)

“Lazy hands will make you poor; hard-working hands will make you rich” (ERV)

REMEMBER THIS ALWAYS

“Woe to them that are at ease in Zion...” Amos 6:1

Anytime your body didn't want to work when it should work, you must read to your body that woe to them who are at ease in Zion. I came across this verse at a time in my life, and this has on many occasion enfire me with zeal to work.

You have to refuse to be at ease when you should be working. To be at ease is to relax, take a nap, go for luxury when you should be committed to a task. You should be at ease when you have done your work not before you do it. I have learned that if you rest too soon, you will lose too soon.

After every success, you must always ask yourself what next. I believe in the grace for ease, but you have to understand that to be at ease in our context is to be lazy. Refuse to be lazy. Always get yourself into doing something. Develop a record of hard work. You must remember always that woe to them who are at ease in zion.



About the Author

Niyi Makinde is a leadership expert, quotient coach, consultant, author and a Christian minister with an apostolic calling.

His passion is to raise Christian ministers and leaders like himself, as well as to help organisations and businesses maximize their potentials. Apostle Niyi Makinde has been in Christian ministry for over fifteen years. He is the President of Rebirth Global Church, a network of churches across the globe on a mission to empower believers to fulfill their God-given tasks on earth.

He is an apostolic oversight and covering for many other ministries, networks and churches.

Also by Niyi Makinde

Apostle Niyi Makinde as an Author has written several insightful and powerful books, among which are:

1. Divine Instructions
2. 12 Laws of Divine Instructions
3. Breaking Life Code
4. Revolutionary Apostle
5. Power to Prosper
6. Power to Become
7. 53 Laws of Excellence
8. Church Shift
9. Business Sense
10. Dealing With Human Enemies
11. Wisdom For All Round
12. Wisdom Power
13. Prayer Force Volume 1
14. Multiply
15. Tithing
16. You are Different
17. Phronesis For Dating
18. Dating, Marriage and Sex
19. Managing Divine People
20. Power to Get Wealth
21. Spiritual Fatherhood
22. Managing Divine People
23. Understanding Honor
24. Flourish And Grow Volume 1
25. Faith Dimension Volume 1
26. Ministry Laws Volume 1

27. Secrets to Supernatural (Financial) Abundance
28. Running Like the Deer
29. Prayer Force volume 2
30. Making Things Happen
31. You are a Seer
32. 79 Insights Into Favor
33. Your Reality Today (Daily Devotional)

