

# **Christian Characteristics**

## **Diligence**

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# 1. Define Diligence

Diligence is conscientious hard work and perseverance, particularly relating to a relationship with God.

It encompasses putting forth great effort in seeking God's wisdom, studying Scripture and striving to live a life pleasing to God.

# 1. Define Diligence

## Diligence found in the OT

Ezra 5:8, “with diligence” means “with care”

Ezra 6:12; 7:17, “with speed,” “speedily”

Prov 4:23, “watchfulness”

Deut. 4:9; 6:17; 19:18; Psalms 77:6; Proverbs 27:23; Isa 55:2;  
Micah 7:3, “with care,” “scrupulously,” “earnestly”

Job 8:5; Proverbs 8:17, “early,” “with haste”

Proverbs 10:4; 12:27; 22:29, “industrious,” “exacting”

# 1. Define Diligence

## Diligence found in the NT

Rom. 12:11, “give diligence” in “business”

Eph. 4:3, “giving diligence” for “endeavoring”

2 Tim. 2:15, “give diligence” in “study”

Heb. 4:11, “give diligence” in “labor”

1 Tim. 4:15, “be diligent in” in “meditate upon”

2. Share two verses in the Bible concerning “Diligence” and explain the verses.

# Proverbs 8:17

17 “I love those who love me; And those who diligently seek me will find me.

2. Share two verses in the Bible concerning “Diligence” and explain the verses.

## 2 Cor. 8:22-23

22 We have sent with them our brother, whom we have often tested and found diligent in many things, but now even more diligent because of his great confidence in you.

23 As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker among you; as for our brethren, *they are* messengers of the churches, a glory to Christ.

### 3. Provide an example of someone who exhibited “Diligence” in the Old Testament.

#### **The Proverbs 31 Woman**

In the last chapter of Proverbs, King Lemuel describes a **godly woman whose life is characterized by diligence as well as other qualities**. This is a description of a type of woman and not necessarily a specific individual. Many of the descriptors refer directly to her investment of her time and energies.

She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands. (13)

She gets up while it is still dark...(15)

She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks. (17)

She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. (27)

#### 4. Provide an example of someone who exhibited “Diligence” in the New Testament.

**Epaphras**, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. I vouch for him that he is working hard for you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis. (Col. 4:12-13)

In these two brief sentences **the diligence of Epaphras**, including **his diligence in prayer**, was spoken of twice. He did not just pray, but he “always wrestled in prayer”. What is there that requires more work, focus and energy than prayer?!

Paul also testified that Epaphras was “working hard” for the believers at the young churches. Epaphras’ diligence was making an eternal difference in the lives of believers in that time!



## 5. How do Christians reflect a Christ-Like attitude through “Diligence”?

To cultivate a Christ-like attitude with diligence, focus on aligning your actions with God's will, prioritizing His work and striving for consistent effort in all you do.

This involves actively seeking wisdom, setting clear goals, and persevering through challenges with a grateful attitude, all while relying on God's strength.

6. How do you grow in “Diligence” and seek opportunities to demonstrate “Diligence” to others?

**Diligence is careful and persistent work and effort.**

**1. Produce excellent work consistently:**

**a. Focus on quality:** Pay close attention to details in your life and strive for thoroughness in your Christian journey.

**b. Show dedication:** Consistently work towards living a righteous life and glorying God in all of your activities.

**c. Finish what you start:** Follow through on your commitments and promises, demonstrating your reliability and responsibility.

**d. Learn and grow:** Actively seek God’s wisdom and guidance through prayer, studying and being obedient to His commandments. .

6. How do you grow in “Diligence” and seek opportunities to demonstrate “Diligence” to others?

## 2. Be reliable and responsible:

**a. Be punctual:** Respect deadlines and appointments, demonstrating your commitment to meeting expectations.

**b. Take ownership:** Accept responsibility and accountability for your actions and their outcomes.

**c. Follow through:** Ensure commitments are completed to the best of your ability from start to finish.

6. How do you grow in “Diligence” and seek opportunities to demonstrate “Diligence” to others?

### 3. Develop strong work habits:

**a. Plan effectively:** Set clear goals and break them down into manageable steps with your Bible study.

**b. Manage your time:** Prioritize your tasks both with your personal (family) and spiritual commitment.

**c. Be resilient:** Persevere through temptation's and rely on God's help and your brothers and sisters in Christ.

**d. Practice self-discipline:** Stay focused on being obedient to God's will.

6. How do you grow in “Diligence” and seek opportunities to demonstrate “Diligence” to others?

## 4. Embrace a positive attitude:

**a. Show initiative:** Look for ways to contribute, improve and help others.

**b. Find joy in the process:** Approach your efforts by sharing the Gospel with others and studies with enthusiasm.

**c. Stay positive:** Maintain a positive outlook even when facing difficulties.