

The Days Of The King The Virtue Of Diligence

1 Samuel 30:1-10 (ESV)

Now when David and his men came to Ziklag on the third day, the Amalekites had made a raid against the Negeb and against Ziklag. They had overcome Ziklag and burned it with fire and taken captive the women and all who were in it, both small and great. They killed no one, but carried them off and went their way. And when David and his men came to the city, they found it burned with fire, and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive. Then David and the people who were with him raised their voices and wept until they had no more strength to weep. David's two wives also had been taken captive, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel. And David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because all the people were bitter in soul, each for his sons and daughters. But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God. And David said to Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelech, "Bring me the ephod." So Abiathar brought the ephod to David. And David inquired of the LORD, "Shall I pursue after this band? Shall I overtake them?" He answered him, "Pursue, for you shall surely overtake and shall surely rescue." So David set out, and the six hundred men who were with him, and they came to the brook Besor, where those who were left behind stayed. But David pursued, he and four hundred men. Two hundred stayed behind, who were too exhausted to cross the brook Besor.

What is Diligence?

Steady, earnest and energetic effort. Persevering application.

Diligence is the virtue that enables a person to keep going even when the going gets tough.

Diligence is not only the opposite of quitting; it is the opposite of apathy, carelessness and going through the motions.

Proverbs 10:4 (ESV)

A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.

Proverbs 12:27 (ESV)

Whoever is slothful will not roast his game, but the diligent man will get precious wealth.

Proverbs 13:4 (ESV)

The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied.

Proverbs 21:5 (ESV)

The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty.

Diligence produces quality work, not just persistent work.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 (ESV)

Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might, for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going.

Gospel diligence is different from a good work ethic.

1 Samuel 30:6 (ESV)

And David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because all the people were bitter in soul, each for his sons and daughters. But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God.

Find your strength in the LORD.

The Gospel fuels a diligent life with the power of the finished work of Christ.

Philippians 3:7-14 (ESV)

But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith – that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Gospel diligence is the only thing that is truly guaranteed to work.

Galatians 6:9 (ESV)

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

4 areas where the Gospel guarantee will create diligence in our lives.

Diligent Service

Hebrews 6:10-12 (ESV)

For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do. And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Diligent Repentance

2 Corinthians 7:11-12 (ESV)

For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter. So although I wrote to you, it was not for the sake of the one who did the wrong, nor for the sake of the one who suffered the wrong, but in order that your earnestness for us might be revealed to you in the sight of God.

Diligent Generosity

2 Corinthians 8:7-8 (ESV)

But as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you – see that you excel in this act of grace also. I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine.

Diligent Prayer

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (ESV)

Pray without ceasing.