

Word 4: Diligent (Diligently, Diligence)

*diligent (adjective): characterized by steady, earnest, and energetic effort:
PAINSTAKING**

Our hearts are the center of our being, physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Our physical heart pumps our life blood through our bodies, without which, life ends. Oh yes, there are medical devices that can simulate its' task, but not without an external source of energy.

Our emotional hearts “ache” with loss, they “break” with tragedy, they feel “empty” when we bid someone farewell. We give “heartfelt” gratitude, our hearts “go out” to those facing adversity, our hearts “rejoice” at good news.

Our spiritual hearts are also a source of life blood, not of our blood, but instead of the saving blood of Jesus Christ. Thus our instruction...

Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

Proverbs 4:23

The heart, being what it is, could be the exact reason why, when questioned by a scribe, Jesus mentions the heart first when he says...

...Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

Luke 10:27

Putting those two scriptures together, we can surmise that we are to diligently love the Lord in all ways starting in our hearts. Not just steadily or urgently, but with energy and painstakingly.

How do we do that? By seeking Him diligently. From Proverbs 8:17 we find these words of diligence...

I love those who love me, And those who seek me diligently will find me. (NKJV)

Seeking means “to look for”, looking for God in all we do. Reading scripture is one type of seeking. Prayer is another. Christian fellowship. Church. Devotionals. All methods of seeking. Disaster. Murder. Mayhem. War. Hatred. These are also tools to seek out our Lord. No, God is not in those things. He is however the one who stands us “on our feet” so that we may move on afterwards with love through our faith in Him.

This testimony is from Enoch in Hebrews 11:6...⁽¹⁾

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Our God loves us and rewards us for our steady, earnest, energetic and painstaking effort. What is that reward? Well, I can tell you it's not wealth or health or a stress-free life. Our reward is the eternal life we receive through our diligent belief in salvation through Christ.

For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Hebrews 6:10-12

Our hearts are easily corrupted, our minds quickly clouded, our souls at risk. This is the truth of the day. Not a new truth, but a truth indeed. Our only defense is the diligence we must practice combating the evil of the day.

As a recovering alcoholic, I know all too well the temptations of the "world" as it were. One of the mantras of AA is "One day at a time". Humph... sometimes it's minute by minute. In moments of weakness, wanting so much to just melt into an alcoholic stupor, I know that my Lord is with me. I seek Him in prayer, and He is there diligently waiting for me every time.

One last scripture to leave you with, with this fourth and final word of the series, comes from Psalms. Your heart is where it starts, and hope is what you must have diligently.

Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord.

Psalms 31:24

May many blessings come your way.

In His Service,



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(1)Additional reading: [Hebrews 11](#) for an outline of men who, by diligent faith, overcame obstacles of this world.

*<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/diligent>

Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture is from the King James Version