

I. Opening Scripture

A. 2 Peter 1:2-11 NKJV “Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power **has given to us all things** that *pertain* to life and godliness, **through the knowledge of Him** who called us by glory and virtue, by which **have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises**, that **through these you may be partakers** of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust. But also for this very reason, **giving all diligence, add to your faith** virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, *you* will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, **be even more diligent** to make your call and election sure, **for if you do these things, you will never stumble**; for so **an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**”

1. The instruction is to be **DILIGENT** with your faith!

- a. Diligent with the precious promises we have been given.
- b. Diligent to add other necessary things to our faith.
- c. Diligent to make our calling and election sure.
 - *Diligent actions that provide evidence of our faith*

2. Diligence provides an abundant entrance into the Kingdom

- *This isn't speaking of entry level salvation – This is speaking of entrance into the abundant supply that is available to all kingdom citizens.*

3. Diligence = to make effort – to endeavor – earnestness

- a. **NIV** – make every effort
- b. **Aramaic** – take pains concerning this
- c. **ISV** – Be all the more eager
- d. **Dictionary** = careful and persistent work, undertaking steady effort – devoted and painstaking work and application to accomplish an undertaking.

4. What does it mean to be diligent with faith?

- a. It means our faith is constant.
- b. It means our faith is persistent.
- c. It means our faith is active.
 - Employed, occupied, working

5. To have diligent faith means:

- a. To have the ability to stand without wavering.
 - *Wavering between flesh and spirit – back and forth*
- b. Faith that stands unwavering and unmovable.
- c. Faith that doesn't shift with circumstances, feelings, or emotions.
- d. **Ephesians 4:14-15 NKJV** "that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ"

AMP "So that we are no longer children [spiritually immature], tossed back and forth [like ships on a stormy sea] and carried about by every wind of [shifting] doctrine, by the cunning *and* trickery of [unscrupulous] men, by the deceitful scheming of people ready to do anything [for personal profit]"

Pastor's Note:

- **Watch out for shifting winds** –*There are many diverse types of winds.*
- **Wind has the ability to move things** – *Do not be moved.*
- **Wind has the ability to dislodge things** – *Don't be dislodged from the Word of your faith.*
- **To and fro – tossed about**
- **Carried – to be driven like a wave**
- **James 1:5-7 NKJV** "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord"

B. What does diligent faith look like?

1. **We are diligent in faith when we are actively engaged in hearing the Word.**
 - a. **Rom 10:17 NKJV** "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."
 - b. ***If we are not ACTIVELY ENGAGED in hearing the Word, we are not being diligent with our faith.***
2. **We are diligent in faith when we pursue and take advantage of every opportunity given to us to develop our faith.**
 - a. **Luke 12:48 NKJV** "But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more."

- b. ***This generation has been given opportunities that previous generations did not have.***
- *Many more Bible translations, commentaries, and resources.*
 - *Research Tools – Internet*
 - *Hearing resources – YouTube, podcasts, etc.*
 - *Service schedules to better fit today's schedules as well as online streaming and archive resources of previous teachings and sermons.*

Pastor's Note: Being diligent with our faith is to take advantage of every opportunity for faith development that is within our reach.

- 3. We are diligent in faith when we operate in an attitude of obedience as the Holy Spirit leads us into the manifestation of our faith.**
- a. Listening to the direction of the Holy Spirit with an attitude that says, "I'm yours to command."
 - b. Obedience in strategic plans
 - c. Obedience in correction
- 4. We are diligent in faith when we are settled and unmovable by the winds of circumstances blowing around us.**
- a. Faith is grounded and settled in the Word.
 - b. The Word never changes or shifts, diligent faith doesn't change or shift its position no matter how things appear in the natural world.