

Diligence is defined as careful work or effort. These proverbs point us to the general life principle that effort is needed to see results. Even the Christ-following life takes work. Scripture is full of encouragement about effort. As theologian Dallas Willard has said, "Grace is not opposed to effort; grace is opposed to earning."

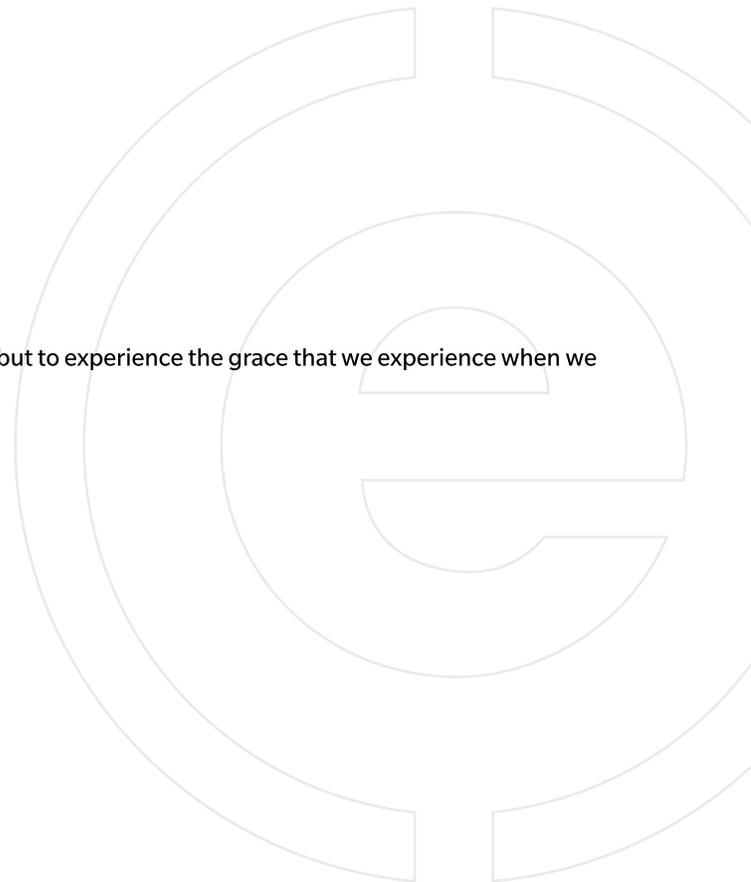
**Main Idea:** Savvy Diligence

**Main Practice:** Working in the Kingdom of God

**Main Teaching:** Proverbs 6:6-11, 10:4, 14:23

**Connect** with Prayer & Praise

Pray for one another that you will be worthy Christ followers; not to earn, but to experience the grace that we experience when we please the Lord.



## with Principle

1. Discuss any insights or questions that Sunday's sermon brought to mind.
2. Read aloud the following scriptures from Proverbs: 6:6-11, 10:4 and 14:23. Compare and contrast the verbs and adjectives used to describe those who are diligent and those who are not. Also contrast the results of these opposite descriptions. What is the general life principle here?
3. Jesus had several things to say about effort and persistence to His followers. Can you recall some? And how does this fit into being obedient to Jesus? Helpful scriptures: Matthew 5:6, 6:33, Luke 11:9-10, 18:1-8.
4. Paul has a lot to say about persistent work in regards to both our spiritual life and our physical life. Discuss your thoughts on Paul's theology shared in these scriptures: Galatians 6:9, Philippians 3:12-14, Colossians 3:23-24, 2 Thessalonians 3:10-13, 1 Timothy 5:8.
5. The other New Testament authors also have lots to say about careful and prudent work in the Kingdom of God. How do these scriptures speak to you: Hebrews 12:1-2, James 1:2-4 +12, 2 Peter 1:5-10.

## with Practice

Diligence often requires encouragement. Read Hebrews 10:24-25 and remember to encourage and pray for all members of your group as they strive to follow Christ.

## for Further Study

While our justification is all the work of Jesus Christ, received by repentance and faith alone, our sanctification takes the work of the Holy Spirit in each one of us, encouraging our effort. How do these two parts of salvation—justification and sanctification--fit with this saying "Let go and let God?" Can you see how this saying can be used both properly and improperly? Discuss, using the following scriptures: Galatians 2:20, 6:9, Philippians 2:12-13, Romans 8:26.