

MARKS OF A CHRISTIAN – WORKING FOR THE LORD WITH AN UNTIRING EFFORT

Romans 12:11 ESV “Do not be slothful in zeal . . .” [J. B Phillips translation “work for the Lord with untiring effort”]

Jesus told the parable of the stewards in which the Master gave five, three and one talent. In today’s money, a talent may have been as much as \$400,000. The Master returned at an unannounced time and required each steward to give an accounting of what they did with the money entrusted to them. The first two were diligent in their stewardship, each one doubling what they had been given to manage. The third however, buried the \$400,000. The Master said to the third steward, “You wicked and slothful servant!” and then he ordered that this servant be “cast into outer darkness.” (Matthew 25:14-30)

Laziness, lack of effort, unfaithfulness is always cast in an unfavorable light in the pages of Holy Scripture. Faithfulness, diligence, hard work is spoken of with very positive words. A man by the name of Denney comments on Paul’s exhortation to not be slothful, “It denotes the moral earnestness with which one should give himself to his vocation. In this Christians are not to be backward”

Lest you forget, whatever you do, you do it unto the LORD. Thus, not only what you do but the energy, the effort, the earnestness with which you do it is an indication of the importance the LORD is in your life. Whether what you do in your life is easy or difficult you do it unto Him who has created you, redeemed you and upon Him who you rely to provide for you.

“Work for the LORD with an untiring effort.” (Romans 12:11) St. Paul exhorts, “do not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”(Galatians 6:9-10) And, in 1 Thessalonians 5:15 St. Paul writes, “be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”

Prayer: O Holy Spirit, create in me a heart filled with zeal whereby I live my life with an untiring effort to do those things that are good in your eyes and give glory to Your holy name. In Jesus’ name I pray this. Amen.

Take my life and let it be Consecrated LORD to Thee;
Take my moments and my days, Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing Always, only for my King;
Take my lips and let them be Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold, Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it Thine, It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own, It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love, my LORD, I pour At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be Ever, only, all for Thee.

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