

## A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

### BE EAGER AND READY

Hebrews 6:11-12 “We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized. We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.”

The writer to the Hebrews in today’s two devotional verses first tells his readers to “show diligence [eagerness, be ready to expend energy and effort] and then he writes, that he does not want them to be “lazy” [dull, sluggish, or slow] in their Christian activities. In verse 9 he writes in such a way that he is sure they will not fall away. They will receive “the things that belong to their salvation.” They will receive God’s blessings that belong to those who are His heirs.

The reason for his confidence is God’s righteousness. God is faithful in keeping His word (promises.) His hearers (readers) share in God’s holiness because Christ sanctifies them. He is confident because they have demonstrated their love for their fellow saints who have undergone severe persecution. (see Hebrews 10:32-34)

This call to diligence, eagerness, and exertion of energy here in Hebrews 6 is that you will focus upon all the good things God has previously given you and those He has promised in the now and the not yet. There is no place for laziness, complacency, and sluggishness during your Christian journey. No matter what you face at the moment, you know God has promised you in Christ better things for your future. He most likely has in mind what he wrote in Hebrews 4 reminding you your life is like running a race (marathon) and in Hebrews 6, that you keep running to the end of the race. (don’t give up or quit) This is what Jesus also urges in Revelation 2:10, “Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown.”

Prayer: Holy Spirit, keep me eager and ready today and everyday to live my life according to Your will and to Your glory. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Forth in Thy name, O Lord, I go, My daily labor to pursue,  
Thee, only Thee, resolved to know In all I think or speak or do.

The task Thy wisdom has assigned, O let me cheerfully fulfill;  
In all my works Thy presence find, And prove Thy good and perfect will.

Thee may I set at my right hand, Whose eyes my inmost substance see,  
And labor on at Thy command, And offer all my works to Thee.

Give me to hear Thine easy yoke, And ev'ry moment watch and pray,  
And still in things eternal look And hasten to Thy glorious day.

For Thee delightfully employ Whate'er Thy bounteous grace has giv'n,  
And run my course with even joy, And closely walk with Thee in heav'n.  
(LSB 854)