

Diligent Work

Kyle Eggleston

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Allow me to begin this talk by defining the words diligent and work.

- Diligent: Showing painstaking effort and application in whatever is undertaken.
- Work: The action or labor required to accomplish something

So when we put these two words and definitions together we find the following:

- Diligent Work: Showing painstaking effort in the action required to accomplish something

I know what you're thinking, "Now we have a nice little definition about two words, but where is this all going?" Well, let's go into the scriptures and find out more. In Doctrine and Covenants 75:3-5 we find the following:

3 - Behold, I say unto you that it is my will that you should go forth and not tarry, neither be idle but labor with your might—
4 - Lifting up your voices as with the sound of a trump, proclaiming the truth according to the revelations and commandments which I have given you.

5 - And thus, if ye are faithful ye shall be laden with many sheaves, and crowned with honor, and glory, and immortality, and eternal life.

As it says in the third verse we should not tarry, which is to mean that we shouldn't delay or hesitate but we should labor with all our might in teaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. When we work we should be actively engaged in doing it, we have a great message that can bring peace and joy into the lives of others.

I am reminded of Lehi's dream concerning the Tree of Life. When Lehi partook of the fruit of the tree, did he just sit back and think "oh, that's nice?" No, he wanted his family to partake of the fruit also.

12 - And as I partook of the fruit thereof it filled my soul with exceedingly great joy; wherefore, I began to be desirous that my family should partake of it also; for I knew that it was desirable above all other fruit. [1 Nephi 8:12]

15 - And it came to pass that I beckoned unto them; and I also did say unto them with a loud voice that they should come unto me, and partake of the fruit, which was desirable above all other fruit.

Did he hesitate and decide whether or not to tell his family? No. It says that he beckoned to his family to go and partake of

the fruit. The Tree of Life is the Love of God, he shared the message of God's Love. Lehi was anxious that they would partake of the fruit so they could have the same feelings of joy that it had brought him.

Just as Lehi was grateful for the joy the fruit brought to his life, we are grateful for the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our lives and we want to share it with our brothers and sisters here on earth. In order to do so, we need to find those who want to listen because usually they don't just come to us, we need to go to them.

We have committed ourselves to work with all our heart, might, mind, and strength as it states in D&C 4. Without working in this manner nothing can be accomplished. Of course along with diligent work, we must recognize the presence of God in all we do.

We have been entrusted with the great work to help bring souls unto Christ. As it says in the work quote "all times, talents, and interests are centered on the work of the ministry." When we work diligently we are happy and the usual every day to day cares of the world don't really matter to us because we are focused on teaching people the gospel and help them closer to the Savior.

This reminds me of when I was serving in Rockledge. One day I didn't feel much like doing anything. My companion and I decided to do some street contacting. As we were walking down Barton, we saw a man in a wheel chair making his daily trip

somewhere. I recognized him from a few days earlier when we helped him across the very busy street.

We stopped and visited with him for a while. when he had to go, I offered him a copy of the Book of Mormon. He declined it and continued on his way. At that moment, I felt a little happier than I did before we started walking down the street. It felt good to give him the opportunity to read Another Testament of Jesus Christ, it was amazing how happy I felt because I was working, sure he declined the offer, but it felt great to give him a chance.