

“DO IT WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT”

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Ecclesiastes 9:10

“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.”

An old saying goes, “He’s a Jack of all trades, and a master of none.” The saying describes someone who is good at many things but not excellent at one thing. Perhaps many of us may feel somewhat like this at times. There is no problem with being a “Jack of all trades,” but Christians should do, whatever they do, to the best they can. Paul emphasizes this to the Colossians, “And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord” (Colossians 3:23). God expects us to do our very best in all things and especially in our service to Him. If we are going to give our best to God, what should we do?

BE DILIGENT. The life of the Christian is a life of dedication and distinction. To be the dedicated servant God desires of us and to be the people of distinction, we must be diligent in our lives. The word “diligent” means to “careful and persevering in carrying out tasks or duties.” By being diligent, we will carry out our lives with care and perseverance. A life characterized by a diligent attitude is the opposite of slothful or slacking in our service to God. It is the diligent life that Paul had in mind as he wrote: “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Romans 12:1-2).

BE DETERMINED. In the world, it is easy to just be OK. Everyone else seems to be fine with just being OK. Be determined or resolve to be the best you can be. The children of Israel were God’s people under the law of Moses. God wanted the best for them. But as they came out of bondage, wandered 40 years, and entered the promised land, the temptation was to just be mediocre. Joshua saw the problem that was before them. In his farewell address, he says, “Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the river, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15). Joshua knew that to serve the Lord with their best, they would need to be resolved to do so. In the verses that follow, Joshua made it very clear that half-hearted service, hot today and cold tomorrow, was not going to be acceptable to God.

DEVELOP A PLAN TO EXCEL. We must plan a course of action to accomplish any task. The plan might simply be:

- ◆ ***Set the right priorities.*** Some things in life are more important than others. Know what these things are and set them as priorities in your life.
- ◆ ***Read and study God’s word.*** Here is where we will get the right priorities for our life. Spend time every day reading and studying the scriptures. Make the changes that you learn from your studies. Remember, our goal is to be the person God wants us to be, not like the others around us.

- ◆ ***Pray for wisdom and strength.*** We need to use the avenue of prayer with God (James 1:5). God wants to hear from us about our lives and the things we need (Philippians 4:6; 1 Peter 3:12). Prayer will strengthen us, and we can be confident in our lives.

God wants us to do everything to the very best of our ability. Mediocrity is not acceptable to God. He knows our abilities and desires us to use them in our life. Let us be diligent, resolving to live a life that excels in all things, but above all in spiritual things.