

SUPER-GRACE DILIGENCE (02)

In our last study, we introduced the fourth characteristic of super-grace (S/G) listed by Paul in 2 Cor.8:7 – **spoude** (diligence).

We learned that spoude is an attitude-action word. It can be translated as haste, diligence, earnestness, careful, eager, or zeal.

The idea is that when the spoude call goes out, “don’t drag your feet in responding.”

(Luke 1:39-40) “Now at that time Mary arose and went in a hurry (spoude) to the hill country, to a city of Judah, and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth.” (Lk.1:35-40) (SOS)

Since it’s a Super-Grace (S/G) characteristic, it will be important in every stage of spiritual growth.

(Jude 3) “Beloved, while I was making every effort (spoude) to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.” (Gal.2:10) ”The very thing I also **was eager** to do.”

This lesson will study four aspect of part two of Super-Grace Diligence.

1. Since it a super-grace characteristic word, it must be maintained until dying grace.

(Heb.6:11) “And we desire that each one of you show the same **diligence** so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end.” (**Heb.6:11**; 5:11-6:12) (Heb.3:12-14)

2. The spiritually gifted teacher entrusted to communicate the truth of the word of God is instructed to be diligent in his study as well as in his teaching (2 Tim.2:14-18).

(2 Tim.2:15) “Be diligent (spoudazo/ a.a.impv.2ps) to present (paristemi/ a.a.infin) yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of God.”

Be diligent to do what, why, and how?

(Heb.4:10-12) “for anyone who enters God’s rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience. For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”

(2 Tim.3:16-17) “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,⁸⁰ that the servant of God^[a] may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

3. In (2 Pet.1:5-10), Peter listed spoude as 1 of 9 characteristics of super- grace status.

Peter knows that he is at death's door when he writes this message to us (2 Pet.1:12-15) (spoudazo).

Peter introduced spoude as the first characteristic:

“Now for this reason also (advancing to spiritual growth maturity), applying (pareisphero/ a.a.ptc.nplm) [To employ, utilize] **all diligence** (pas spoude/ asf) supply (epichoregeo/ a.a.impv.2pl) (2 Pet.1:5, 11) (Greek drama word).”

In 1st and 2nd Peter, Peter is fulfilling the role of shepherd as assigned by Jesus in (John 21:15-17). Now Peter is loving the Lord by feeding the Lord's sheep.

4. Diligence is associated with the spiritual gift leadership.

(Rom.12:8) “He who leads (ho proistemi/ p.a.ptc.nsm), with (en+inst. of association) diligence (spoude/ inst.sf).”

The spiritual gift of leader is the supernatural ability to initiate leadership in the church body in such a way that other believers are diligent to follow (Acts 6:1-7) [Daily serving the needs of the church].

Cow bell story:

(Rom.12:9-13) gives examples for the need of the characteristics of spiritual growth maturity functioning in the Christian Way of Life (CWL) “not lagging behind in diligence.” (**Rom.12:11a**; 1 Cor.13:13)