

# THE CHARACTER OF A STEWARD

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**“I fall, I stand still ... I trudge on, I gain a little ... I get more eager and climb higher and begin to see the widening horizon. Every struggle is a victory.”**

*- Helen Keller*

# How to work through these radio talks

## Purpose of these radio talks

**Please note: This is only radio talks for self study and not to be released in any other format due to copy right restrictions.**

### **Sources and Full acknowledgement:**

#### **Primary sources**

The Power for true success: How to build character in your life

#### **Secondary**

Crown Stewardship material

The money devotional from Mark LLoydbottom

CBMC weekly notes and specifically the reflection notes

Biblical Principles for releasing Financial Provision by Frank Damazio and Rich Brott

The Treasure Principle by Randy Alcorn

# 13. DETERMINATION vs Faintheartedness

**Determination is looking at insurmountable obstacles as opportunities to cry out for God's supernatural intervention**

Afrikaans	Definisie	Alternatiewe
Vasberadenheid vs. wankelmoedig	Om van voorneme te wees om die regte ding op die regte tyd te doen ongeag van die moontlike teëstand.	Lafhartigheid, flou

## Definition

Determination deals with a mind-set prior to a task, while endurance involves the completion of the task. Determination presupposes careful consideration of the cost and requirements of a task and a decision that the task is worth whatever expenses are necessary to achieve it.

“Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself” (Daniel 1:8). Daniel het hom voorgeneem om hom nie met die koning se kos en wyn te verontreinig nie en hy het die hoofpaleisbeampte vergunning gevra om dit nie te gebruik nie

## Why Is Determination Important?

Life consists of choices. If we make the right choices, we experience the blessings of God. If we make the wrong choices, we experience discipline, destruction, or even death. After wise choices are made, determination is needed to carry them out. Wise choices will often be challenged by difficulties and temptations.

“ At first the task looks difficult, then it is impossible; then it is done.” —J. Hudson Taylor Reaching a goal requires more than skill—it requires determination. This means rejecting distractions, such as discouragement and doubt. Often, failure is due not to a lack of talent or ability but to a lack of persistence during difficult times.

### **How Do We Develop Determination?**

We develop determination by recognizing the losses or gains resulting from a particular choice.

### **What Hinders Determination?**

The fear of man is a strong hindrance to determination, because it does not allow us to decide with the Lord what is the best choice. Instead, we try to guess what other people think is right and what they will think of us if we make a different decision than they would. Fear brings torment (see I John 4:18), and this torment brings bondage. “The fear of man bringeth a snare” (Proverbs 29:25). As jy vir mense bang is, kan jy in ‘n strik beland, maar as jy jou vertrou in die Here stel, is jy veilig. A double mind is another hindrance to determination. A doubleminded person is like a wave of the sea driven backward and forward with every passing wind. This makes determination impossible. “A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways” (James 1:8). So ‘n mens wat altyd aan die twyfel is en onbestendig is in al sy doen en late, moet nie dink dat hy iets van die Here sal ontvang nie.

### **What Are We to Be Determined About?**

#### **1. Keeping vows**

“When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay. Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands?” (Ecclesiastes 5:4–6).

## 2. Seeking the Lord with the whole heart

God promises a special reward for those who promise to seek Him with the whole heart. "Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart" (Psalm 119:2). Dit gaan goed met die wat sy verordeninge gehoorsaam, die wat met die hele hart sy wil doen

### How determined are you?

- Do you determine to follow Christ, no matter what the cost?
- Do you have Biblical commitments that will direct your decisions in life?
- Do you commit to reach a goal and overcome any obstacles you encounter along the way?
- Do you have a motivating purpose in life?
- Do you persevere during tasks that are more difficult than what you expected?
- Do you allow problems or failures to keep you from trying again?

# 14. DILIGENCE vs slothfulness

Afrikaans	Definisie	Alternatiewe
Ywer vs. traagheid	Om my tyd en energie te gebruik om enige taak aan my opgedra te voltooi.	Vlytig, arbeidsaam, luiheid

### Diligence vs. Slothfulness

**Diligence is accepting each task as a special assignment from the Lord and using all my energies to do it quickly and skillfully.**

They communicate such concepts as rising early; searching out with painstaking effort; being earnest, eager, and determined; working swiftly, skillfully, and efficiently; and pursuing a task promptly and energetically.

## **The Great Rewards of Diligence**

Valuable rewards are promised to those who are diligent. For example, diligent workers will receive riches, leadership, favor, a standing before rulers, an understanding of the meaning of life, or honor from God. • “Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men” (Proverbs 22:29). Jy sien iemand wat vaardig is in sy werk kom in diens van konings, nie in die diens van mense sonder aansien nie

- “The hand of the diligent shall bear rule” (Proverbs 12:24). Hardwerkende mense kom in magsposisies lui mense word dwangarbeiders Bekwamer mense doen dinge deeglik

- “The hand of the diligent maketh rich” (Proverbs 10:4). ‘n Man wat nie sy hande uit sy mou steek nie, word arm; dit is vlyt wat reik maak elke dag het 24 uur om te groei, te dien en produktief te wees. Besluit vandag om nie tyd te mors nie

## **The Biblical Encouragement to Be Diligent**

God encourages us to have diligence in the following areas:

- Carrying out leadership responsibilities (See Romans 12:8.)
- Doing good works (See I Timothy 5:10.)
- Seeking the Lord (See Hebrews 11:6.)
- Watching over fellow believers (See Hebrews 12:15.)
- Developing Godly character (See II Peter 1:5–7.)
- Working for personal peace and purity (See II Peter 3:14.)

## **The Key to Developing Diligence**

. Whenever asked to carry out a difficult task, we usually ask ourselves two questions: “What will I gain if I do it?” or “What will I lose if I do not do it?” God provides answers to these questions in the following passage of Scripture.

“Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ” (Colossians 3:23–24). Wat julle ook al doen, doen dit van harte soos vir die Here en nie vir mense nie, omdat julle weet dat julle van die Here as beloning sal kry wat Hy belowe het

Therefore, our motivation for diligent labor is to realize that we do not work for just an earthly employer, but that we are actually employed by the Lord Jesus Christ. He will make a thorough

inspection of all that we do and reward us for diligence, not only in this life, but throughout all of eternity.

Ecclesiastes 9:10:

“Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might.” If you have failed to demonstrate diligence in all your projects, then you have not adequately represented the Lord Jesus Christ Whom you serve. You have also disappointed those who were expecting more diligence and productivity from you. It would be wise for you to ask forgiveness of the Lord and those whom you have disappointed and to purpose now to develop true diligence in every task that is set before you.

### **How diligent are you?**

- Do you complete an assigned task quickly and enthusiastically, or do you reluctantly fit it into your schedule?
- Do you plan ahead in order to do a job in the quickest and most efficient way?
- Do you look forward to going on to a new job or to resting after a job?
- Do you complete chores so thoroughly that your parents consider you a diligent worker?
- Do you do a job to first please the Lord and then your employer?
- Do you go the extra mile, working wholeheartedly to complete each job?
- Do you use every minute of company time to make your employer successful?