

Diligence

Word Forms:

- diligence (n) David shows a lot of diligence in his studies.
- diligent (adj) David is a very diligent student.
- diligently (adv) David studies very diligently.

Related Words:

- industrious (adj) Brenda is a very industrious worker.
- zeal (n) When international students arrive in the U.S., they usually have a lot of zeal to learn English.
- zealous (adj) Hakim is a very zealous Muslim.
- persist (v) "If you keep persisting, you will eventually be able to fix the bicycle."
- persistent (adj) Salesmen often need to be very persistent to sell their products.
- perseverance (n) Medical students need a lot of perseverance to finish all their studies.
- patience (n) It takes a lot of patience to potty-train a child.
- stick to (v) "Stick to it and don't give up," Jill's mother told her as she struggled with her homework.
- pay attention (v) "Pay attention. This is very important," the teacher told the students.
- eager (adj) "Are you very eager to improve your English?"
- active (adj) Jessica is a very active woman. She is always busy doing something.
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- lazy (adj) Allen is very lazy. He lies on the sofa all day and watches TV.

Exercises:

1. Your boss will like you if you're _____ and not _____.
2. Some people don't have enough _____ to finish a 1000-piece puzzle.
3. Sally is very _____ in her work. She is careful to do everything well.

Questions:

1. Everyone is diligent about at least one thing. What is something you're diligent about?
2. Do you wish you were more diligent about doing some particular thing? If so, what is it?
3. What do you think the Bible says we should be diligent about?

Bible Readings:

1. "If you pay attention to the commands of the Lord your God...you will always be at the top, never at the bottom...However, if you do not obey the Lord your God and do not carefully follow all his commands...all these curses will come upon you and overtake you." (Deuteronomy 28:13, 15, NIV)
2. "It is through the Lord's love that we have not come to destruction, because his mercies have no limit. They are new every morning." (Lamentations 3:22-23, BBE)
3. "We...are citizens of heaven, and we eagerly wait for our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, to come from heaven [and take us there]." (Philippians 3:20, TEV)

Questions:

1. What does the Bible say that we should be diligent to do ("pay attention to")? Can anyone "carefully follow all his commands"? What should happen to the people who can't do it? (reading 1)
2. We should be punished and destroyed because of our sin. But why have we "not come to destruction"? (reading 2) In what way did God most clearly show his love and mercy to us?

3. Because Jesus died for us, what do we now “eagerly wait for”? (reading 3)