

Title: Rise Up! Due Diligence

Brandy Helton, Garden Gathering, 2/18/24

Praise God. I am going to continue to talk on "rise." This message today is called, "Due diligence and discernment." Holy Spirit spoke to us at the beginning of the year that we would "rise up." That is not just in one area of our life. So, you may know where you need to rise up. But, it may be different for everybody. Yet, that is a call corporately for the body of Christ to "rise up."

Today, these two terms of, "due diligence and discernment," are going to go together, and we are going to get into that. I want to encourage you. Jesus said that His Father is always working. Jesus said, "My Father is always working." Jesus came, and He did the same, because the Father was always working. Jesus said, "I have come to work."

I am going to destroy the myth, that when we get to Heaven, "we sit on a fluffy cloud and float for all eternity." It is just a cartoon, right? We are going to be working with God, by His side for eternity. Yet, it is in rest. That is amazing. We are His family, and He is amazing. He is going to continue to unfold His great plan for all eternity. If Jesus said, "My Father is working, and I have come to work and to do the same," then as the body of Christ and those who have been born again, we are always working.

Now, there is a day of rest. But, it is the essence of His heart, that Father wants to reveal His love to all. He wants to save. He wants to heal. He wants to deliver. He wants to make things new in us. He is always working, that sinners would come to repentance. God pursues the lost. How do you think you were saved? If He did not pursue the lost, we are in trouble. He pursued me, and He won my heart and saved my soul. There are many that are still lost out there, who have not made Jesus their Lord and Savior. They need to be born again. We the church are commissioned to work with God and Jesus to get them saved, healed, delivered, made whole, to prosper, and to come into peace and rest. Say, "I am always working with Jesus."

We are going to use this term "due diligence." Anybody heard that term before? This is kind of a governmental or legislative word that has some legal ramifications to it. "Due diligence," *is a process or effort to collect and analyze information before making a decision. It is a process or an effort to collect and analyze information before making a decision. Anybody ever make a wrong decision? If you are alive, we all have at least once. You say, "Why did I not think that out?" Anybody ever say, "I got ahead of myself?" We understand don't we? When the Spirit is saying, "Rise in "due diligence," it is the process and effort to collect and analyze information before making a decision. It is a process often used by investors to identify and assess risk. How about that? It is reasonable care and caution exercised by a person who is buying, selling or giving professional advice. Especially as required by law to protect against incurring liability. These are big terms. The court said there was due diligence on the part of the plaintiff. The process of gathering or disclosing relevant and reliable information about a prospective sale, purchase or contract. You should perform due diligence on a company before investing.*

When you hear "due diligence," you hear process and effort. Seek something before making decisions. Take care in seeking out, and looking for something to protect, to keep you from harm, or mistakes. Basically, to gather information that is going to help us succeed and make a profit. You understand that?

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Now if you look up the word diligence in Hebrew in the concordance it states, *"it is a guard. It means to watch. Diligence is observance."* *It is like a guard post. A jailer at the door of a jail making sure that whoever is in there stays there. It is a place of confinement to watch over. We can understand that. A guard watching over a door. This is "due diligence."*

Examples of this would be God watching over us. You say, "I did not know that." Yes, God watches over us. God does "due diligence." He watches over us personally and intimately over our spirit, soul and body. He watches over everything that concerns us. He already sees our future with Him. He sees our today. He saw our past, and He forgave us. It is under the blood of Jesus. Amen. God is showing "due diligence." This is part of His nature. Thank the Lord. We have a diligent God. He is always doing something really good for us. He is always watching over us, to keep us. He is watching over us, so we can succeed. Hallelujah. He is investing in us. He is hoping for good and for the Kingdom to explode through us, so we can "be faithful and bear much fruit," in what He has called us to do. Amen.

Another example would be the soldier on guard duty. There is a serious punishment, if the soldier goes to sleep while on watch. Correct? If he is on his post, and he falls asleep, there is serious punishment for this. Because, you have to stand guard. You have to stand watch. This is "due diligence." How about the shepherd that watches over his flock of sheep at night? Praise the Lord, Jesus is our Good Shepherd. How about the watchman who stays on the wall to defend the city, or the watchmen in prayer? He calls us that in the scriptures, "watchmen on the wall." We are called to pray. We are called to intercede. We are called to stay in tune with what God is saying and pray effectively. We are called to pray and do "due diligence," in it. It is like a husband watching over his family.

Colossians 4:2 NKJV

This is our lifestyle. We talk about this constantly. Every born again believer is called to commune with God, pray His word, decree His Word, to pray what God says, and to pray for one another. Every one of us do our "due diligence," in prayer and continue earnestly in prayer. That is not flippantly. It did not say continue "flippantly, or every now and then." Continue earnestly in prayer. Do "due diligence," being vigilant in it with thanksgiving. Know that God hears you.

1 Peter 5:8

This makes sense. I have to do "due diligence." I have to watch. I have to guard. I have to be in a place of attentiveness. I have to purposely pursue what God is saying. The enemy is "going around constantly to kill, steal and destroy." That is why I quoted that this morning. But, Jesus has come to give us life and life more abundantly. Jesus is watching over us in, "due diligence" to bring life and life abundant and to answer our prayers. As the Spirit intercedes over us, and as Jesus intercedes over us, He is doing, "due diligence," by interceding now for us. You say, "Oh, I did not know that." Yes, Jesus is praying for us. He did not just stop when He went to heaven. He is our Great High Priest. He still prays for us, and no one knows our heart but, Jesus. Even in wonderful families and husbands and wives, you think you know each other, but not like God knows you. Scripture says, "He knows your thoughts from afar. He knows what is in our heart. He is for us," in "due diligence." How awesome is this!

Have you ever heard, "Do not let your guard down?" Usually, we are trying to protect ourself. "Do not let your guard down." Have you ever heard, "Have some discernment, man?" Have some discernment, "due diligence." God wants to give us wisdom. He is always ahead of the game. He wants us to "rise" in this. He wants us to "rise to our understanding." God is watching over His Word in us to bring us into the fullness of what He has for us in every sphere and everywhere we serve. Where are you doing "due diligence" in your job, with your finances, with your family, and with your responsibilities? Are you doing "due diligence" in your

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education and your ministries, and are you guarding there? Are you ready and alert there? Are you vigilant? Are you attentive? These things matter!

Proverbs 4:23

We are called to keep our hearts. We are called. I want to keep her heart the best I can, but she is called to keep her heart. You understand? I can pray. I can help. I can assist, but we are called to keep our heart with diligence. Pay attention, in alertness, and be guarded. It is all through the Psalms and Proverbs. "For out of it spring forth the issues of life, because out of the heart, the mouth speaks." Out of the heart, comes all these things. We want life in our heart. Correct? We want life to spring forth out of our hearts. So, we need to do "due diligence," in keeping our hearts fixed on life, on truth, on the word, on love, and the way of God.

Proverbs 4:23 NIV

"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."

Everything you do comes from the heart, not your head, truth! Everything you do in life comes from our heart. Every decision, right or wrong, comes from the heart. Jesus nailed it all through the scripture. He did. Not the mind, the heart and out of the heart, it flows and is going to go into our entire spirit, soul and body, mind, will and emotion. But, it starts in the heart. Thank God for His "due diligence," to send Jesus to save us. Because out of His heart, flows rivers of life. He wants us to be with Him forever. Isn't that beautiful? We have always been in His heart. He formed us. He fashioned us. He created us. "Above all else," say, "Above all else," guard your heart. Everything you do flows from it." We are to do it in "due diligence."

Proverbs 4:23 ESV

"Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life."

There is that word again, "Be vigilant, for your adversary, the devil, walks around like a roaring lion seeking who he can devour." But, if my heart is receiving the love from the Father, if my heart is receiving His word daily, if my heart is abiding in the truth, that the Lord loves me, and I am receiving that every day, then my heart is going to explode. Because, when you really start thinking about how much God loves you, your heart just cannot take it in. You are going to be changed, like it or not. Out of that, your heart is encountering God. Jesus says, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, your soul, your mind, your will, and your emotion." Then He said, "Love your neighbor as yourself." It is just going to take over everything in our lives.

You say, "I do not like my neighbor." Well, you do not have to agree with all they are doing. We are just supposed to love them and not hate them. We hate sin. God said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, will and strength, and your neighbor as yourself." That includes loving ourselves as well. That is not arrogant.

Proverbs 4:23 NLT

"Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life."

How important it is to do "due diligence" in looking over your heart. We do "due diligence" in our daily affairs in life. We do "due diligence" in cleaning our house. We have "due diligence" in our ministry, our job, our workplace, our love, and all that we have our set our hands to do. We do "due diligence" as we seek out something, as we study something, as we are about to step into something new, buy property, or lands, or houses as we give and give more abundantly. Whatever we are doing as business men and women, we are doing "due diligence," and it comes back to our hearts. You would have probably not ever put that to it, but that is where it

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happens. Because out of the heart, comes all the issues of life. I am going to be attentive to that and rise to what Jesus is saying, "Give "due diligence" to it in life this year.

Proverbs 22:5 NKJV

"Thorns and snares are in the way of the perverse; He who guards his soul will be far from them."

Proverbs 22:5 NLT

"Corrupt people walk a thorny, treacherous road; whoever values life will avoid it."

The thorns and snares are in the way of the perverse, but if you guard your soul, you are doing "due diligence" to keep yourself on the path of life and righteousness.

Proverbs 22:5 NIV

"In the paths of the wicked are snares and pitfalls, but, those who would preserve their life will stay far from them."

You say, "I am not going that way," when you climb mountains and hike trails, and you see signs for the paths. You choose one or say, "I do not want that one. I will go this way." Sometimes it is not always the easy way, correct? But, we have a choice. We have an opportunity to choose the way in which we are walking. We are guarding our soul. We are keeping ourselves, and literally we are keeping our heart with "due diligence," vigilance and awareness.

As God is walking with us in this life, He has the answers for us, amen. He says, "Do not get caught up in corruption." I have talked about this constantly. Guard your eye gate. Guard your ear gates, and guard your heart. There are certain things you do not have to see, or hear, or watch. He said, "Do not get caught up in the corruption, but overcome evil with good." Go to God and pray. How can we overcome evil with good here? Pray against evil, bind it, forbid it, and loose the truth, loose the Kingdom of Heaven way, up and out of it. Hallelujah!

As the church, we have that authority to do. So, here we are doing "due diligence" in that prayer. He warns us about this path. "Do not get caught up in corruption." It may be someone close to you as well. Keep your heart in the path of life.

Matthew 12:35

Jesus says this, "A good man, out of the good treasure of his heart, brings forth good things. An evil man, out of the evil treasure of his heart, brings forth evil things." Truth, those were Jesus's words. "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things. The evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil things." When we were lost and not saved, we did not always walk uprightly. But, once we are saved, the Spirit is renewing us to walk uprightly and follow the Lord on the path of righteousness, and to walk after righteousness. That is why you are a defender. That is why you hate evil and injustice. Because, the Spirit of righteousness is in you, to defend, to protect, and to keep.

Romans 12:6 NKJV

He says, "Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them." Everyone has plenty of gifts. We all have many gifts that God has appointed to us. As Christians, the Spirit gives these spiritual gifts to us. He says, "Use them." You say, "I have so much wisdom," then use it. "I am so full of kindness," then give it. "I am a giver," then give. "I have interpretations and tongues," then speak it. Right? He says, "He who leads, lead with diligence."

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Why did he put that together? If you lead, "lead with diligence." There is no faltering there. We need leaders, and every saint in the house of God should be leading. Truth. I will say it again. Every saint in the house of God should be leading. We need leaders. We are not all just followers. That gets us in trouble. But, when you are in Christ and you start leading, you are going to make a difference in your family, in your careers, with your ministries, or at home. In all that you have set your hands to do, if you are leading by the Spirit of God, you lead with diligence, do "due diligence." That is amazing. That is what He is saying, "Rise in due diligence." Rise in diligence. Do not procrastinate.

II Timothy 2:15 KJV

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

We are supposed to live our life devoted to God, His heart and His Word. Study, you know what that means. "Study to show thyself approved to God, as a workman." He said, "My Father is always working." So, as you abide in the word, the word abides in you, and you obey the word. You are working for God. You say, "I did not know that." Yes, as you abide in the word and you obey God's word, you follow God's heart. You are abiding. You study the word. You study His precepts, His Word, and His direction. You are showing yourself approved unto God. He approves of you. He is with you, for you, and blessing you in what you do as a "workman that needs not be ashamed."

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." So, it is not something you have to do. It is something that we get to do. We have been given God's absolute precious Word to abide in Him. As you go throughout the day, you will hear Him speak to you, correct? You are not necessarily reading your Bible at that point. But, the Spirit of God is speaking to you. He is the Living Word speaking to you. He shows you the way to walk. You are following after His heart in all of your ways.

Nehemiah 4

We are going to read this in light of "due diligence." We are going to see what we hear from the book of Nehemiah, a prophet, called by God to go back to oversee the destroyed walls in Jerusalem rebuilt after three years of captivity in Babylon. The temple is completely in ruins and the walls are in ruins. There is a mess. He is going back to Jerusalem with an assignment. There are always bad guys in the way. They are going to be easy to pick out in the story.

Nehemiah 4:1

Who does that sound like? That is Satan. That is what he does. He will use people against you when you are giving "due diligence," and you are doing what God told you to do. Satan will come furious, indignant and mocking you, in what God has told you to do. It does not matter the task. That is his assignment.

Nehemiah 4:2-5

In the midst of those threats and those lies in opposition to the work, the Lord God Almighty rises up through the saints to pray. "Hear, O our God," because without Him, we can do nothing. But, they are very specific. They are doing "due diligence," and they are laying out what they want done to the enemies that are opposing His work. They acknowledge that the Lord's anger has come up against them.

Nehemiah 4:6

Getting people to work is a hard battle. "Kids take out the trash," but "it's her turn." It does not matter what it is. Right? It is a lazy generation. It is been that way since sin started. Jesus said, "My Father has always been working." He is working. He is building. I work. I build, and "my people are going to work and build after me." Hear it? That is the story. Do "due diligence," for the "people had the mind to work."

Nehemiah 4:7-9

Now they are surrounded by enemies at the new building that is going up and the restoration that is happening. The enemy is always ticked off when restoration comes. "All of them conspired together." This is how the enemy works. All of them conspired together to come and create confusion. "Nevertheless, we made our prayer to our God." Here it is again. Nevertheless, see "due diligence," they set a watch on the wall." Guarding their post and hearing what God says. "I have the mind to work." We have souls to save. We have a Kingdom to bring forth. What is your will, Lord? That is what I am after. "We set a watch against them day and night."

Nehemiah 4:10

They are getting discouraged, saying, "We are tired."

Nehemiah 4:11-16

That is a statement. Our leader, King Jesus and His Father, is behind His family, His government, and His church. He is behind us. He is saying, "Leaders, get behind the work of the Lord in the house of God and behind every saint."

Nehemiah 4:17-19

You know, this wasn't just a little wall. It was a big wall, and they were not close together. They had no cell phones, so the trumpet was the call. They are covered through intercession.

Nehemiah 4:20-23

They are serious about this. Scripture says and we know by experience, it took fifty-two days to complete this, and they did not have the equipment that we use today. But, the heart and the messages is you see "due diligence," in this work. You see "due diligence," and the people rising to the occasion to do the Lord's will. You see the enemy, and he has not changed. It is no new thing. The enemy speaks to you personally, bringing discouragement to you in your goals, your plans, and what you want to do. Saying, "Oh, it is going to take you forever!" Yes, but do "due diligence." Be vigilant, one step at a time. "Get it done." Be faithful, and we must work.

We have to work while there is still light, because "a day is coming when no one can work." Those are quotes from Jesus. We know that we have time now. We know that we are in the midst of a very critical time in history. We are called to "walk in the light as He is in the light." We are called to be diligent and vigilant. Stand fast in what you are called to do. Stand fast in the word of the Lord. Abide in Him. Remain in Him. Be encouraged with Him. Love Him. If you have been a bit lazy, let's wake up. Let's just get up. If you have doubted yourself and think, "Well, I cannot do it as good as they can." Then why not go help? We will see. He just said, "Those who lead, lead with all diligence." We are all leaders and leading someone. Someone sees our example. Boy, do we need leaders today, righteous leaders. So let's stand and acknowledge what He is encouraging us in today. I know that He will speak to your hearts and encourage you as well.

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“Father God, we receive your word today. We know, Holy Ghost, you are hovering over it. Lord, great is your reward. You are rewarding us Lord, even for the simple tasks. You are seeing our faithfulness. It matters how we love each other. It matters how we care for one another. It matters how we help the hurting. It matters how we heal. It matters how we pray. It matters how we guard, keep, watch over, and protect. It matters how we bring truth. I thank you, Jesus, that you see all of this and that you love us with an everlasting love. We thank you for your encouragement today. I bless each and every person who hears the sound of my words, hear this, or sees this, or those that are here, that we would go in this, and that we would hear your Spirit saying, “Well done, good and faithful servant.” Be blessed, in Jesus’ name. Amen.