

“The Duty of Assurance” □ WCF 18.3m (TPH p930)

2024.07.14 Sabbath School Lesson

Hopewell ARPC, Culleoka, TN

1. Although hypocrites and other unregenerate men may vainly deceive themselves with false hopes and carnal presumptions of being in the favor of God, and estate of salvation a (which hope of theirs shall perish b): yet such as truly believe in the Lord Jesus, and love Him in sincerity, endeavoring to walk in all good conscience before Him, may, in this life, be certainly assured that they are in the state of grace,c and may rejoice in the hope of the glory of God, which hope shall never make them ashamed.d

2. This certainty is not a bare conjectural and probable persuasion grounded upon a fallible hope;e but an infallible assurance of faith founded upon the divine truth of the promises of salvation,f the inward evidence of those graces unto which these promises are made,g the testimony of the Spirit of adoption witnessing with our spirits that we are the children of God,h which Spirit is the earnest of our inheritance, whereby we are sealed to the day of redemption.i

3. This infallible assurance doth not so belong to the essence of faith, but that a true believer may wait long, and conflict with many difficulties, before he be partaker of it:k yet, being enabled by the Spirit to know the things which are freely given him of God, he may, without extraordinary revelation, in the right use of ordinary means, attain thereunto.

l And therefore it is the duty of everyone to give all diligence to make his calling and election sure,m that thereby his heart may be enlarged in peace and joy in the Holy Ghost, in love and thankfulness to God, and in strength and cheerfulness in the duties of obedience, the proper fruits of this assurance;n so far is it from inclining men to looseness.o

4. True believers may have the assurance of their salvation divers ways shaken, diminished, and intermitted; as, by negligence in preserving of it, by falling into some special sin which woundeth the conscience and grieveth the Spirit; by some sudden or vehement temptation, by God’s withdrawing the light of His countenance, and suffering even such as fear Him to walk in darkness and to have no light:p yet are they never utterly destitute of that seed of God, and life of faith, that love of Christ and the brethren, that sincerity of heart, and conscience of duty, out of which, by the operation of the Spirit, this assurance may, in due time, be revived;q and by the which, in

the meantime, they are supported from utter despair.

m. 2Peter 1:5–11 5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. 10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

- “all diligence” “every effort”... two verbs in addition to the noun: “apply” and “add”
- “faith” ... personal reliance upon God... here especially prayer
- “virtue” ... divine attribute of moral excellence; communicable attribute... communion with God
- “knowledge” ... the use of the mind, and the employment of what is known... study, hearing, meditation
- “self-control” ... a sports word; training and self-discipline; commitment and self-denial
- “perseverance” ... persisting under some effort, difficulty, or setback
- “godliness” ... religion, piety; living before the face of, and interacting with the presence of, God
- “brotherly kindness” ... love that is foremost for the church, that applies “godliness” horizontally
- “love” ... love that extends to all
- the dreadful condition of those in whom one or more of these appear as if missing
- the intermediate condition of even those who have them all (“and increasing”)
- “barren and unfruitful” the opposite of an abundant harvest. Knowing Christ makes a difference, and you should be able to see/experience that difference
- “shortsighted”/“blindness” ... not seeing life in light of either eternity or of God Himself
- “forgotten” ... the necessity of making a clean break with your former self; the Christian life is a life of reminding and remembering what Christ has done in His life and in yours
- “all the more eager” ... redoubled effort, urgency, no delay
- “call and election” ... as each of these things is a gift from God, assurance is a gift from God, not an achievement.

- “you will never stumble” ... you will never fall; assurance is true; if God’s beginning the work assures its completion, how much more God’s advancing the work?!
 - “entrance ... supplied ... abundantly” ... a rich welcome; the King will have fit you for the kingdom in such a way that you are well-welcomed by those who can see His handiwork richly adorning you
- n. Rom. 5:1–2, 5. Rom. 14:17. Rom. 15:13. Eph. 1:3–4. Ps. 4:6–7. Ps. 119:32. ▪
o. 1John 2:1–2. Rom. 6:1–2. Titus 2:11–12, 14. 2Cor. 7:1. Rom. 8:1, 12. 1John 3:2–3. Ps. 130:4. 1John 1:6–7. ▪ p. Ps. 51:8, 12, 14. Eph. 4:30–31. Ps. 77:1–10. Ps. 31:22. Matt. 26:69–72.
Luke 22:31–34. ▪ q. 1John 3:9. Luke 22:32. Ps. 51:8, 12. ▪ r. Mic. 7:7–9. Jer. 32:40. Isa. 54:7–14. 2Cor. 4:8–10.

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

So, we've been hearing the last couple of weeks that it is the spirit who gives us Assurance of F.

Assurance that we are in a state of grace assurance that we are Christ's that we belong to him. That we have eternal life. Um, this of course, is Uh, This is an addition, of course to Saving Faith. Which is being sure. That Christ is a savior. But as when we talk about Assurance of Faith or Assurance that we are in a state of Grace, As I hope you.

Uh, have assimilated by now. We mean your own personal certainty. That you are united to Christ through faith that you are saved. Uh and so we have heard the last couple of weeks that it's the spirit who gives us and he does it Not by some. Uh, extraordinary Revelation or Um, what some might?

Uh, called spooky Revelation. But through the right use of ordinary means, And this becomes all the more apparent when we come to second, Peter chapter one. Uh, in order to Uh, in order to see from scripture, The next truth that we have in Westminster Confession, chapter 18, which is And therefore, it is the duty of everyone to give all diligence.

To make his calling. An election. Sure. And, Uh, when we get into this duty, that we have, and what we are supposed to be diligent to do, as we seek Assurance of Faith, as we seek to make our calling and elections for, we discover that all of these things, uh, that we are supposed to pursue diligently are things that are pursued by the ordinary means of Grace.

Actually reinforces the portion in last week's. Uh, the thought in last week's portion the right use Of ordinary means. So, I think I'm actually going to start reading in verse 2. If I'm not mistaken. Uh, verse 10 is the only verse that is listed as a proof. Text I gave you verses 5 through 11 on the page but I want you to see the connection between God's giving us these things.

And the diligence that is the means by which the instrument the mechanism by which God gives us these things. So, listen carefully Uh, and sometimes I'll tell children ahead of time. Um, and sometimes I'll I'll do it so that the adults will hear him and do it too. Uh, listen carefully to um, see if you can see the two things.

That go together by how I read it. So he says Grace and peace. Be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus, our lord. As his divine power. Has given to us. All things that pertain to life and godliness. Through the knowledge of him who called us by glory and virtue.

By which have been given by, which have been given to us. Exceedingly, great and precious promises that through these, you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. But also, for this very reason, giving all diligence Add to your faith virtue to Virtue.

Knowledge to knowledge, self-control to self-control perseverance. To perseverance godliness to godliness. Brotherly kindness. And to brotherly, kindness love. And if these things are yours and abound, you'll be neither Barren nor unfruitful The knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these. Things is short-sighted even to blindness and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

Therefore Brethren be even more diligent. To make your call and election. Sure. For, if you do these things, you will never stumble. For so, an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly. Into the Everlasting Kingdom. Of our Lord and Savior. Jesus Christ. Okay, so the two things that go together are the two things that I emphasized twice because they each appear twice.

As we read and that is in verse. Three, his divine power has given to us. All things that pertain to life and godliness verse 4 by, which have been given to us, The exceedingly great and precious promises. So on the one hand, God gives everything we need for life and godliness.

He gives us everything that we obtain in life and godliness, it's a gift of God. But then, on the other hand, verse 5, giving all diligence. And then verse 10, Be even more diligent. So seeing that these things are gifts from God. Is not incompatible. With diligence with effort.

You are not uh, but as a Christian by trying hard, And the things that are listed here, you're not denying that they are given by God's grace. And if you teach your children, To try hard. Yes, you need to be teaching them, the the whole counsel of God. That that only what Jesus has done makes us right with God.

But and that even when Jesus commands us to do something, That is only done by the power of Jesus in us and the life of Jesus in us. You need to remember these things. But, We must also teach teach our children to put forth, all diligence to make every effort.

When this too, of course the teachers of the church should do this, should not be controversial. Uh, but in many churches, it is Uh, the idea that that we are supposed to try hard and be diligent, that God, commands work, effort, spiritual sweat, if you will, uh, is one that you will hear in some Churches is incompatible with the idea of Grace.

I think that's uh, all I will say about that here. Uh, and right now. So Very helpful. That they thought to include this line in the chapter on insurance and therefore, it is the duty of everyone to give all diligence. To make his calling an election short. Now in verse 5, where it says, giving all diligence, uh, he is combining Uh, the word for For diligence, with actually two verbs.

Apply and add. Uh, that is that this diligence is applied to The faith that the Lord gives us. In other words, you don't obtain Faith by diligence. But it's something that Works upon and works out our faith. And then it is something that is uh is added to what God has done initially.

So when God brings you to Faith in Jesus Christ, that is the beginning of your salvation. Uh, and Uh, he wants you to work hard to apply. Uh, and add All diligence. This is for this very reason, giving all diligence add to your faith. Uh, virtue. So, Faith, first of all is personal Reliance upon God.

Now, if you rely upon God, genuinely and truly, this is going to be expressed by your heart. This is going to be expressed in relation to God. God is not An impersonal power. He is not A force. He is a being one God in three persons. And so, when you rely upon God, faith in the life is going to be expressed in prayer.

You're going to be interacting with him. Resting upon him talking to him. If this sounds strange to you or maybe it doesn't sound strange but you know, that it uh it has not been characterizing your life, it's not been the way that you're living. You're not constantly asking God for help.

And thanking him for help and praising him for it. Well, here is an opportunity to, uh, to remember That we are to be living by faith and that this is especially Expressed in prayer. So to add to your faith virtue. Now, virtue is the word goodness. It's actually a Divine attribute of God and one that, But he especially emphasizes in scripture.

We are going to. Read and pray and sing today, God is good and he does good. So here we are. We're relying upon God. And he is telling us to add to our relying upon end to add to our faith. Something that is an essential component of his own character.

An attribute of God, if, if you have Thought about the attributes of God or been taught about them. You've probably heard the words communicable. Those things that belong to God that he gives to us to image in some measure and incommunicable. Those things that are gods that those things that belong to God, that are different than any of the creatures.

Goodness is a communicable attribute, but one of the things that we need to remember when we need to grow in a communicable, communicable attribute of God is that we cannot produce it from ourselves. It has to be communicated to us by God. And, It makes sense that he would go from ad to your faith virtue.

Now, it would be a mistake to take the things in this list and think. That these are things that First, you have faith and then we're going to add virtue and once we're done, adding virtues, we're going to add knowledge. And once we're done adding knowledge, we're going to add self-control.

Now, all of these things are interrelated and uh, and interconnected, um, And in the way that God gives them to us, interdependent But if we, if we are going to grow in this communicable attribute, Uh, this virtue, this goodness, that is perfect in God and needs to be increasing in.

From whom, can we get it? Only from God himself and then how can we get it? Well, in whatever ways he has, told us, That he gives himself to us. This is, uh, this is The great thing in the ordinary means of Grace, is that in then the god of Grace.

Works in. Okay, so We'll do the, uh, the next one add to your virtue knowledge. This actually is not. Of difficult to understand what this has knowledge, the use of the mind and then the

employment of what is known. So information, what we might call theology, but then also wisdom, Uncommon Common Sense.

Of putting your theology into practice, and this comes of course by reading, but especially by hearing. The word of God and by meditating upon it by thinking upon it. So study, Uh, hearing meditation. And so, Very quickly in this list as he's describing. The means by which we are to work hard in pursuing Assurance to make our calling and election sir.

He's already brought us through two of the primary means of Grace. Prayer. And the reading and especially the hearing preached, uh the word of God and meditating, then upon what we have read and what we have heard and doing this, not as Um, Not merely as spiritual exercises, but spiritual interaction with the Lord looking to him, to give to us.

Uh, the knowledge that he gives to us knowledge, of course. Um, another Communicable attribute of God. And so looking to him to give us to increase our knowledge looking to him to increase our goodness having Fellowship. With him. So, there was A song that I was taught children when when I was really little in church and I think it was designed to exhaust us.

Uh, but the the poor child Ministry workers. Uh, did not. Um, Did not know. How much energy all of us could have and how much that would be reinforced by putting so many of us together in a small space. Um, but you would, uh, you all had to start out, Crouch down on the ground, and we would say, read your Bible, pray every day, pray every day, pray every day, read your Bible, pray every day, and you'll grow grow grow, and you'll grow grow, and you'll grow grow.

Grow read your Bible. Pray every day, your girl girl, and you had to Judicious and how much you grew grew at first because there's a lot of grow grow growing. And if you didn't, if you didn't do it in small increments, then you'd be trying to jump off of your tiptoes by the end.

And then don't read your Bible. Forget to pray, forget to pray. Forget to pray. Don't read your Bible, forget to pray and you'll shrink shrink shrink. And then you would shrink shrink shrink back down until you Shrank to the ground. Now that's actually true. That is a mechanism in the Christian Life.

But it is not mechanical. It is personal. So one of the mistakes that I made to children learning that in in the church and that I don't want you to make is that I thought that reading in prayer kind of worked by themselves that it was kind of like um practicing a sport or lifting weights or practicing piano that I would just get better at being Godly.

By the practice. Of reading and praying. Uh, I didn't understand that these were means, by which I was supposed to be having fellowship with God, and that he himself is working in me. So as you look to make your calling an election, sure, you combine these two things because you're supposed to be making every effort.

Like we hear in verses 5 through 11 which I put on your page and I'm sorry I didn't put verses two through four on your page. We're making every effort for something that is given to us by God. And so it comes in relationship with him. Oh, okay. Dave.

Yes, but what do you say? Even though you don't want to make it mechanical and I agree with you 100 on that. Is because like growing up in our family, it was a regular thing, it became a part of our lives. You know, the mechanic you want to say the mechanical aspect of it that there have been times in my Christian walk where I think we want to do certain things but I believe that God could still use that.

As means of Grace. The fact that I you know, I practice those things you know and I have told people that if you feel like God is far away from you at this time in your life continue to do those things that you know that God uses and ask him to turn that into something.

So that that mechanical for that habit. Yes. That's that's that's true on two counts. Coming to which is under the Uh, the words, translated self-control in verse six, which is a self-disciplined word and then also a little bit in the word perseverance later in the verse the other is That.

The means that God uses he designs according to their purpose, So yes, getting Knowledge from the Bible is personal. But the Lord actually does use. The knowledge that he gives us to change how we think and how we think changes how we feel and how we think and feel changes.

Uh what we do, what we desire. Uh, so

So, It is a mechanism. But it's not. Purely mechanical. And, Uh as as far as the helpfulness of habit, that's according to God's design even before he created, man. Right, he we've made this point a few times. Now, he created with mornings and evenings. It wasn't because he needed.

Rest at the end of the day. Or needed a while to get his, you know? Yeah. Trying to think of how to To get going in the morning. Uh, if you'll forgive me for speaking, that way, that is not how God is, don't mean to speak lightly of him.

That's that's for our sake. So that he could come and say, all right, Laying down, time is a time for my word. And rising up. Time is a time for my word. To give us those habits that overrule our weakness. The thing that you must need to do when you don't feel like having secret worship is to have secret worship.

The thing that you most need to do when you don't feel like leading your family and family worship is to lead your family in family worship. And this is a hard, but to me, it just seems utterly obvious, although all of American evangelicalism seems to be paralyzed by it.

Um, The thing you most need to do when you don't feel like going to church. Is go to church. Because there are the means and the worship. By which God gives you better feelings. By which he corrects you and works in you. Uh, and so Uh, so yes. The idea of the The Habit and when what God has Uh, commanded being Necessary and useful and helpful and designed according to the purpose for which he uses.

And that's all true. But if we Attempt to use them. Impersonally. Apart from fellowship with God himself. We will be using the, the means in a way. That. That does not understand. That God is the one who must give us all of these things. Yeah. So What you're trying to say.

I think it's negative. It's just like Catholicism. When they say say, slow polymerase, like going through that mechanical effort has done something. It it hasn't done anything as far as a relationship with God and Sam from the standpoint that You're now closer because you repeated 12 times. You know, are reading the Bible and we don't feel As if we're in the mood for that that's determ, ideas is still God's word through the Holy Spirit.

We can have effective Yes, that's that's true. Although I don't want to I don't want to diminish the necessity of effort. Because God commands it. And if he commands it, then he uses it. What I want to emphasize for the children is Not to learn spiritual growth. Like, you might learn an instrument, or a sport or some other.

Uh, skill or discipline in life. Um,

Because the means by which we get spiritual growth are all Uh, ways by which you are supposed to be interacting with God. Now, even if you're not doing it rightly, Uh, which of course, as soon as we say that, every one of us must admit, we've never done it.

Perfectly rightly. So praise God. It doesn't depend upon that. Even if even if you're doing it in a mistaken way. And you're in great spiritual error. God himself. Is able to work Beyond or even without means And he often does. Some of you have probably met. I have met.

What I'm almost certain were converted papists. Um, it was not because their approach to the means of Grace. Was good in any way, shape, or form. It was because the god of Grace. Had so invested, his means. Um, and so attended them by his just by his being pleased to do so by his Spirit.

That he had given these people faith in Christ. And not in themselves and not in what they were doing. Um, And if you Heard about the Ukrainian JW's, ask me some other time. Um, we will we need to Uh, press on. So, we are to make Uh, make every effort we are to give all uh diligence.

To add to our faith. Uh, virtue and knowledge and self-control the word self-control here is a sports word. Uh, it contains the ideas of training and self-discipline and commitment and self-denial. Uh, you know, think of People who? Who train for the Olympics. And they are. Shaping all of their thoughts the way they construct their schedule.

Uh, what they eat, when they eat, what they will do, what they won't do, what kind of Events. They will go to kind of events, they won't, they're making all of these decisions with the goal of having 11, glorious seconds or hopefully like 9.7. Gloria seconds in their life, a little bit of recognition, you know, a little gold desk.

Um they're gonna Pawn in a couple years anyway, and I'm just kidding. They don't all Pawn them. But compare that to what, we've just been told, God is giving us. By by these means. That are being listed here. And certainly the ordering of the whole life, the commitment, the self-denial, the training, the self-discipline.

These are not bad things. It does not make you a monk. To be self-disciplined and train in the Christian Life. It makes you a Christian. Uh, and those who who treat, uh, self-control and discipline, and diligent pursuit of, of godliness as if it's some sort of unhealthy fanaticism. Are simply in conflict with the scripture on this point.

Now again, This is Independence upon the God, who is giving us these things. And giving us their fruit by by the means of it perseverance. Uh, persisting under, uh, some effort difficulty or even setback. I think the the fact that that is part of the word that is behind perseverance here is helpful to us.

Because if you're doing, if you're supposed to put forth, all the diligence to make your calling an election, sure. And then you don't pray like you should and you don't read like you should and you feel how little your knowledge is and you're often not doing the things that you had committed to do.

And you have all of these shortcomings. Uh, one of the dangers is your pursuit of assurance becomes. Uh, a very Discouraging exercise that actually Robs you of Assurance. And so he he adds perseverance here to remind us and especially this The reason we may persevere in all

these things is again because of from verses 2 through 4, God is the one Who is giving these to us?

And so, we We persist, we persevere. To perseverance godliness. Uh, I think, perhaps Helpful that this is the point at which he puts in this word godliness. Uh the word the words that is translated godliness. Here is a word that means literally to do things uh before the face of God.

It's a word that we would call piety or religion. Uh, to offer the hearts to the Lord continually. Um, so now not just Um, Uh, prayer. Being. Uh, one of the ways you live by faith, always Asking things from the Lord, and depending upon him, but this offering yourself to him this interaction with him,

If we have, You know, really sharp accurate theology. And if we have, A really good regimen of spiritual things to do. And if we have a strict moral code by which we live by, But we are not interacting with the Lord.

Uh, a all those other things are not being used correctly, and If we somehow get some Assurance, By means of all these things. There are lots of people who feel really assured by how accurate their theology is. And there are lots of people who feel really assured by their, uh, their regimen of spiritual disciplines.

And there are lots of people who feel Really assured by how upright their moral code is and how strictly they stick to it. But if you do all these things without interacting with God himself as offered to him and Independence upon him, Then the Assurance you gain is self-assurance It is not assurance that you are, receiving something from God that is for God.

The making your call and election sure that the Holy Spirit carries Peter to write about here, As an assurance of something that is from God. And for God, in interaction with him himself. Uh, and so that is emphasized by this word godliness. Uh, and if it is from God and for God, it's going to issue.

Uh, in in the last two things, both of which describe love but one, which is a special love for the Brethren. Uh, what's called brotherly kindness in the first part of verse seven, and then love more generally and this too is an imitation of God isn't it? He has a special electing redeeming love for.

Uh, Those whom he is saving And we ought to have. And we ought to pursue Praise God. He says, this is something you accumulate by diligence. Love is not something you fall into or fall out of If you are falling into it or you are falling out of it.

There's something else but it's not love. Okay, love is something that is required. Love is something that you give all diligence to add. That doesn't mean it doesn't include the affections. It absolutely must include the affections. And, of course, the actions. But there is a love for Christians that if you don't have If you don't recognize in your own heart and the way you think, and the way you feel and even, and how you choose to act upon and express and, and serve out of that love, if there isn't a special distinction for those who are believers.

Then there's something that is. Not quite reflective of God's love. Is there. Okay, so that's something that if you recognize it, then you pursue it again, by the means of his grace Independence upon him in relationship with him. There is a brotherly kindness. That is above and beyond the general love care, that we should have for all people, for our neighbor and even for our enemy.

He basically describes here. Be diligent in the Christian Life. And that is how. Uh, you are going to make your calling and election. Sure. There's a dreadful condition. If there's, uh, if these things are not yours or not increasing. Then you will be Barren and unfruitful. So what I'm doing is, I'm taking verse 8, verse 8 says, if these things are yours on the bound, You will be neither Barren nor unfruitful.

In the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now, some of you may have at some point, Planted fruit trees. And, I don't know, maybe you. You got bare root? And it's just like, a, a rip. And, If you don't take care of it. And it doesn't bear fruit. It's very difficult for you to know that what you actually have is a fruit tree.

And if you don't put forth all diligence, Walk with Christ and you're relying upon him. And the character of Christ and the difference that he makes doesn't come out of your life. This is very difficult to tell but what you are is actually a Christian. But if By the means and the instruction he is given here you make this effort and you know that it's only Christ's life and Christ's power in Christ's goodness that can produce the fruit.

Then not only when the fruit comes out of you can you say, oh, I am a fruit tree. Or in this case, I am a Christian You know, that it was Christ who produced the fruit. And it is a much greater thing to realize Christ has made me a Christian.

Than to think. Haha, I had made myself a Christian That of course, is not even possible. But there's great comfort. And here's the word.

And fruit come out of your life that, you know, And particularly has been produced in the way that his word says that he doesn't,

The actual work. Of the Lord Jesus Christ. Um, Man there.

There's more here that I wanted to cover. I think we'll go uh, straight to the end there in verse 11. Uh, for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly. Into the Everlasting Kingdom of our Lord and Savior. All right, Jesus Christ. You will be richly welcomed the more that you see the fruit that belongs to the king.

And that is suitable and fitting for his kingdom. The more certain you are, That you are going to be recognized as one of theirs. When you come to enter the kingdom, Um, Uh, yes, if you ask

You know, if you were to die today and God was to ask you, why should I let you into heaven? You say because Jesus? Because Jesus obeyed for me because Jesus died for me. But you can also say, That is part of the Fuller answer. Because it is the Jesus who obeyed for me and the Jesus who died for me.

That has done this in me. It's not from me. It's from him. I belong to the. He has fit me for the kingdom. And even through the diligent effort to which he commanded me in my life, He supplied for me, a rich. Welcome. Into his kingdom.

All of that. Summarized in three words, make every effort. Uh, but there's a lot there. Uh, to understand and get that correctly. Let's pray. We thank you Lord that you have given us and are giving us everything. That pertains to life and godliness. And since diligence, and every effort, Pertains to life and godliness.

We pray that you might give those to us as well. Work in Us, by your spirit. Apply Christ and his life to Bring out the fruit. Of the family resemblance as your under your children. We ask in Jesus name. Amen.