

SUPER-GRACE DILIGENCE

Today we will introduce the fourth characteristic of super-grace status of the spiritually maturity believer listed by Paul in 2 Cor.8:7: faith (pistis), utterance (logos), knowledge (gnosis), **diligence (spoude)**.

At first, I was surprise to see Paul put (spoude) with the big boys of (2 Cor.8:7).

Spoude can be translated by many different ways: haste, diligence, earnestness, careful, and zeal.

For example: In (2 Cor.8:7), it is translated four different ways.

- KJB Diligence
- NASB Earnestness
- NIVB Complete earnestness
- Amplified All zeal

This is the introduction lesson to spoude as the fourth characteristic of super-grace.

We will study three aspects of Super-Grace Diligence.
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Spoude is a thought-action word. It always has the idea of “don’t drag your feet in responding.”

The verbal form is spoudazo. It means to be diligent in doing a specific thing, to throw oneself into accomplishing it.

After studying **spoude**, I came to realize baby believers do not have the capacity to accomplish spoude. The believer must have the spiritual maturity to respond to emergency calls for assistance. He must be able to grasp the gravity of the situation and respond in haste.

Paul writes to Timothy from prison (2 Tim.2:9) and Paul believes he will die (2 Tim.4:6-8). He sent an SOS out to Timothy – “Make every effort (spoudazo/ a.a.impv.2ps) to come to me soon.” (**2 Tim.4:9**, 21)

He told Titus the same thing – “Make every effort (spoudazo/ a.a.impv.3ps) to come to me.” (Titus 3:12)

“Diligently (spoudaios/ adv.) help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos **on their way** (propempo/ a.a.impv.2ps) so that nothing is lacking for them.” (Titus 3:13/ emergency)

1. Another example of spoude ministry was found in Paul’s words of encouragement to the Philippian church regarding their pastor Epaphroditus (Phil.2:19-30).

The church had sent their pastor (spoude) to assist Paul during his imprisonment (Phil.2:25). The pastor had become sick to the point of death but had recovered and Paul was preparing to send him home (spoude).

“Therefore I have sent him **all the more eagerly** (spoudaios/ adv.) in order that when you see him again you may rejoice and I may be less concerned about you.” (**Phil.28/ 2:28-30**)

2. **During the same period as Philippians, Paul writing to the Ephesian church used spoude regarding walking (peripateo/ a.a.infin) in a manner worthy of the calling of Lord (Eph.4:1-6).**

Paul gives a different list of seven super-grace characteristics that were needed to be exercised to the Ephesian church.

“With all **humility** and **gentleness**, with **patience**, showing **forbearance** (anecho/ p.m.ptc.nplm) to one another in **love**, **Being diligent** (spoudazo/ p.a.ptc.nplm) to preserve (tereo/ p.a.infin) the unity of the Spirit in the bond of **peace**.” (Eph.4:2-3/ Gal.5:15, 25)

Notice the two present participles underlined because they were singled out as important to the WALK:
_____ and _____.

Notice that it is the responsibility of the Indwelling Holy Spirit to minister these super-grace qualities to others in need of them.

It is the responsibility of the spiritually mature believer to maintain his/ her spiritual momentum by ‘walking’ in the power of the Holy Spirit (Gal.5:16-17) and by faith (2 Cor.5:7; Col.2:6-7).