

Maple Springs Baptist Church

Series: The Effective Life

Week 2: Intense Effort

The divine nature will always produce a change, but it works best when **an intense effort** is given.

Jesus offers divine resources to us through His very great and precious promises, but you have to grab on to the promises and go with them.

If you're going to experience true transformation of character and have the personal capacity to wholly follow Christ, you have to understand intense effort.

"intense effort" suggests the seriousness and importance of our responsibility. We cannot expect to grow and thrive in the "divine life" without intense effort.

Peter was reminding Christians of our sacred obligation to maximize the resources God has given us.

"add" –The word means "to supply in copious measure, to provide beyond the need, to supply more than generously."

It's not enough to have a heart of intense effort; we must translate the heart into habits.

Colossians 3:23-24. If the need of diligence is found in 2 Peter 1, the pattern of intense effort is found in Colossians 3.

"Whatever you do" Intense Effort is a lifestyle.

Colossians 3:23-24 are set in the context of everyday life. These verses implore us to dive into all our tasks diligently. The word "whatever" covers anything and everything we do.

"Work at it with all your heart": Intense Effort is strenuous.

"With all your heart" means "from the innermost fabric of one's being."

"As working for the Lord": Intense Effort is Sacrificial

"You will receive the reward": Intense Effort is Rewarding

The same God who has given you everything you need for a life of godliness will also reward you for living that way.