

ROMANS TWELVE



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ROMANS TWELVE · VERSE ELEVEN

LOVE WITH INTEGRITY

Diligent · Fervent · Serving the Lord

Romans 12:11–13 (NIV)

11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. **12** Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. **13** Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Literal Translation • Romans 12:9–12

the object — the response Paul commands

Love	sincere — hate evil, cling to good
Brotherly love	family devotion
Honor	lead — you go first
Diligence	not lazy / slothful
Spirit	fervent — ardent, boiling
The Lord	bond-serving
Hope	rejoicing
Suffering	enduring / patient
Prayer	continuing / faithful
Saints in need	sharing
Hospitality	pursuing

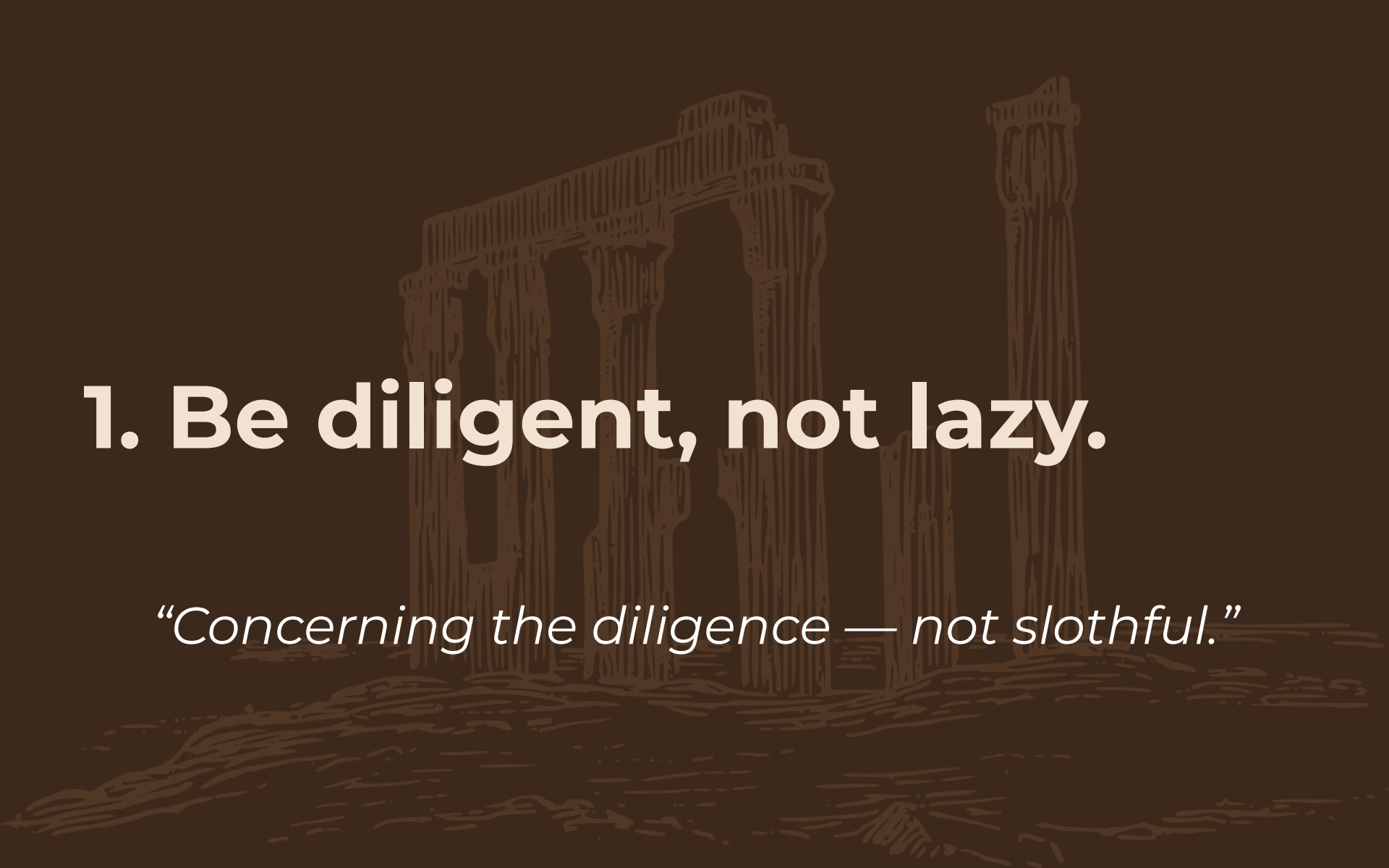
Love with concrete integrity:

Concerning...

1. Diligence — not slothful.

2. Spirit — fervency.

3. The Lord — bond-serving.

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1. Be diligent, not lazy.

“Concerning the diligence — not slothful.”

Glosses:

“not lagging in zeal”

“not slackening in diligence”

“not shirking in service”

“not dragging in devotion”

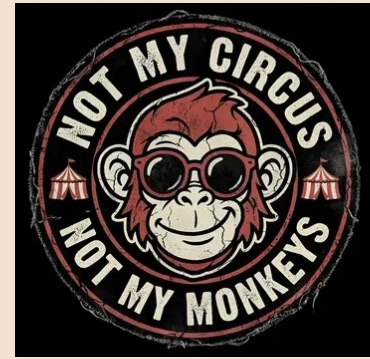
Diligence means energetic action to get the duty done — you start with initiative and you finish. You're relentless.

Diligence **assumes**
responsibility and duty.

It starts by **owning the job**
that's actually yours.

“It’s my job”

Renting vs. Owning Employee vs. Owner Babysitter vs. Parent



When we rent or are employees- our level of personal investment is different than when we're an owner. **Diligence begins the moment a duty** stops being “someone’s” and becomes “mine.”

Collectivism
Tribalism



Liberalism
Libertarianism

The collective's interests are
your interests. You belong to
the group.

I can define what my life
means.
I have no duties I don't
chose.

Embedded and Embodied

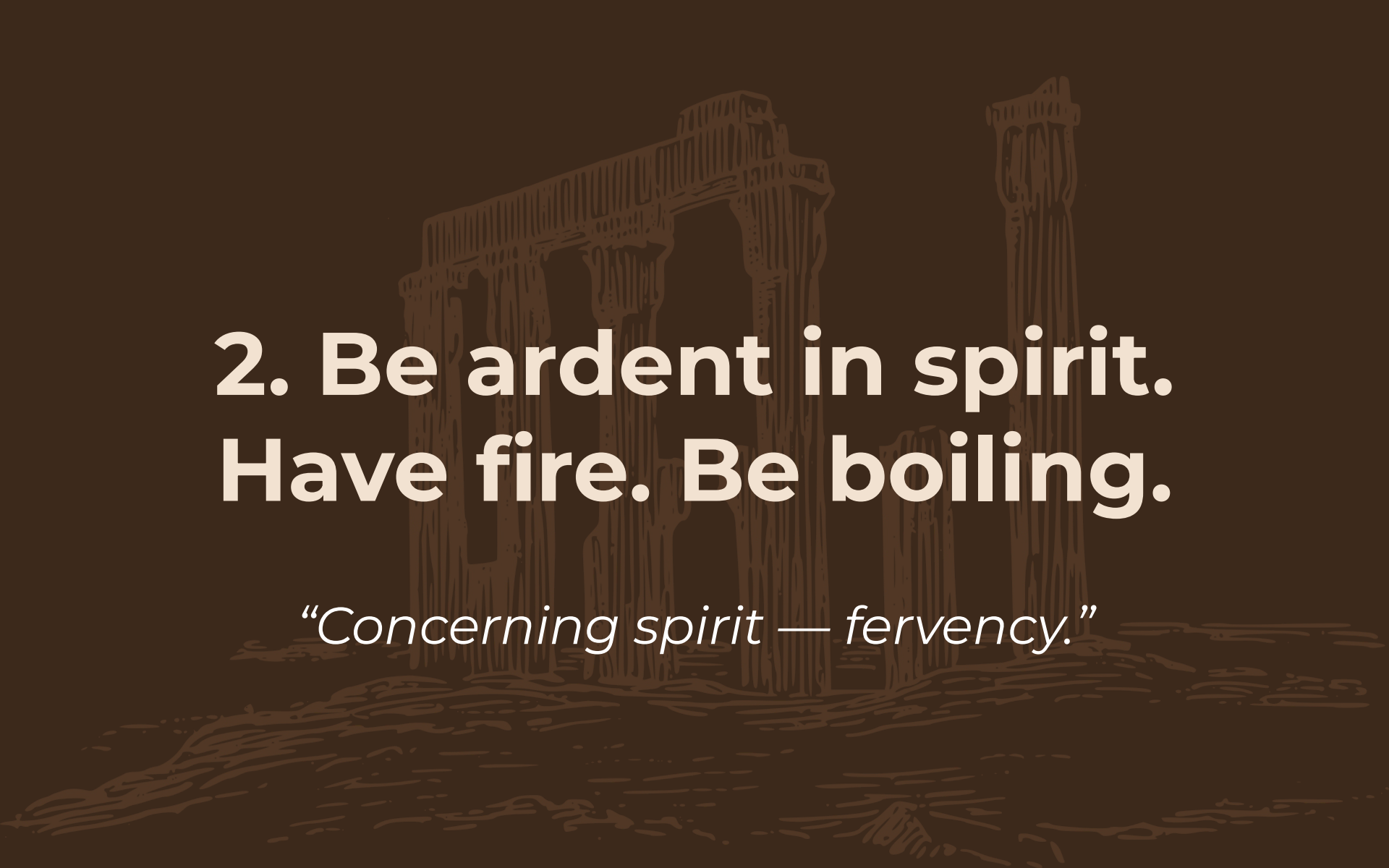
I am from God. I am a morally independent
agent with a nature and vocation; who belongs.

Duties and Responsibilities come in various ways:

1. From a promise, giving my word, or a covenant
2. From the bonds of natural loyalty
3. From a trust, position, or authority
4. From vocation or obedience to God
5. From the Golden Rule/Samaritan Principle
6. From principles of stewardship
7. From a response to grace or mercy
8. From manners: hospitality, courtesy
9. From subordination: right submission

Application

- **Recognition** — See the scope of the goods you're connected to — your real duties and opportunities. (it's significance and meaning)
- **Voluntary** — Offer it cheerfully and freely. Self-pity doesn't energize joy.
- **Be diligent**— Diligence keeps spiritual-mindedness from decaying into feelings and ideas with no action.



**2. Be ardent in spirit.
Have fire. Be boiling.**

“Concerning spirit — fervency.”

DEFINITION

Fervency

Well-ordered strong passion (ardor): zealous emotional energy moving us toward the good, leading to good action and attitude.



Spiritual Responsibility:

**My fervency is my
responsibility.**

Even though I'm not
left to it alone.

Galatians 2:20 (NIV)

20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but **Christ lives in me.** The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Spiritual Emotion



Emotions
are
Mysterious

What I CAN control:

1. My immediate attitude
(Faith)
2. My shaping disciplines
(Discipleship)

ILLUSTRATION — PRODUCTIVE HEAT

The Jet Boil

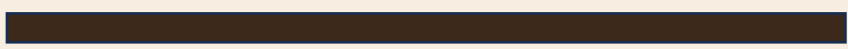
Fervency
increases from
better spiritual
conduction.



Application — the heart

- **God cares a lot about your heart** — Emotions are his invention — he wants yours as full as possible.
- **Emotions are trainable** — We feed the climate of our hearts; the weather follows.
- **Build it indirectly** — Practice the disciplines of the heart; kill what sabotages fervency.
- **Don't leave it for last** — The longer you wait, the harder it gets.

Breaking Torpidity

 Torpid: sluggish, apathetic, stubborn

1. Show up, don't isolate
2. Get a lot more specific
3. Be honest about your exertions
4. Break your focus down to simpler subjects
5. Slash mental loops
6. Practice constant worship & thankfulness
7. Hear others against yourself
8. Use Liturgy and structure
9. Get guidance esp. concerning the "wall"

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3. Serve the Lord in glad bondage.

“Concerning the Lord — bond-serving.”

DEFINITION

Bond-servant • doulos

Not a reference to lowness, injustice or abuse. (Joseph)

A bond-servant has no confusions about authority and loyalties, or that he is there to serve.

The contentment of the servant:

I am his. My work is his. My place is his appointment. My reward is in his hands. My authority is from him.

Jesus is the greatest Master

- **The greatest one to serve** — As a person, he is magnificent.
- **The greatest servant** — He came not to be served, but to give his life a ransom for many.
- **He demands what is good** — Exactly what you should want for yourself.
- **He simplifies a divided mind** — One Person to please frees us from the fear of everyone.

**IF YOU DO NOT SERVE JESUS, YOU
WILL SERVE...**

**Your belly — your appetites and
cravings**

**Fear of Man — their approval
and applause**

**The World- it's assumptions
and ways.**

Titus 3:3 (NIV)

³ At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and **enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures.** We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.

Application — the anchor

- **Grounding** — A bad attitude means we've lost his place above us, or the quality of who he is.
- **Protection** — It keeps diligence from legalism, and fervency from bigoted zealotry.
- **We fail by defect, not excess** — Diligent at work six days — and diligent at rest one day.



CONCLUSION

**Do lots of work
for Christ, passionately.**

1 Corinthians 15:58 (NIV)

58 Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. **Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord,** because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

1 Peter 4:10–11 (NIV)

10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. **11** ...so that in all things **God may be praised through Jesus Christ.**

I KNOW YOUR WORKS

Revelation 2:2 (ESV)

2 I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false.

See also: Rev 2:19, 3:1, 3:8, 3:15- “I know your works”

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