

# STRONGER MEN

APRIL 2022

WEEKLY GUIDE & RESOURCES





## **APRIL 2022 – DILIGENCE & EFFORT**

Greetings **STRONGER MEN**,

***STRONGER MEN*** are like the hardworking farmer, committed to the dignity of diligence, pursuing righteous values, and giving their best effort in things that matter.

2022 Q1 is over... are you getting stronger? How are you doing? Are you on track in key areas of your life plan, your priorities, your focus? Are you trending in the right direction? What adjustments need to be made?

This month we are going to focus on the virtue of **diligence** and **effort** in our pursuit of godly manhood. It's not just about working hard, but working hard on the right things and continuing to strive in a healthy way toward becoming the men God has called us to become.

Let's be clear: Effort is not opposed to grace. It's the result of a true understanding of grace. We work hard, not to be accepted by God, but because His grace has transformed us and produces new desires in us that long to maximize the impact of our lives for His glory.

**STRONGER MEN** set the right targets and pursue them. **STRONGER MEN** work hard toward righteous values. **STRONGER MEN** rest in the finished work of Christ, and give their all in pursuit of His purposes.

Do you work hard in all things? Are you willing to work hard, not just in your career/job, but work hard on your marriage? Parenting? Health? Knowing the Bible? Pursuing a stronger relationship with God? Fighting your sin/flesh and bad attitudes? Overcoming bad habits, vices?

Where do you need to focus your efforts this month and apply greater diligence toward your maturity as a man of God? And who can you help get stronger this month?

With you on the Anvil,

**Pastor Adam**



## HOW STRONGER MEN GROUPS WORK:

1. **Gather** weekly with your **STRONGER MEN** group (a group of dudes who want to get stronger in Christ) in the weeks between our 1st Wednesday **STRONGER MEN** gatherings.
2. **Read and discuss** the following Scripture passages using the discussion questions.

*\*\*Have each man read the passage and think on the questions in advance, in preparation for your meeting/gathering. It makes a big difference. Come prepared!*

3. **Identify** clear actions and applications for your life and relationships.
4. **Pray** for God to build Christ-like character and virtues in your lives as strong, godly men, walking in the power and example of Jesus.

## THE APRIL CHALLENGE:

1. **KILL YOUR DRAGON** - Read the Bible everyday this month. Where do you need to "make every effort" to get stronger this month? Identify a specific area of focus for growing in diligence this month.
2. **WIN YOUR GIRL** - Pray with and for your wife every day this month. Bless your wife intentionally in word and deed. How will you practically serve your wife this month? How will you demonstrate that she is a priority in your life?
3. **LEAD YOUR FAMILY** - Pray with and for your kids every day this month. Gather with the church every week this month. How will you lead your family spiritually?
4. **TEAM UP WITH STRONGER MEN** - Meet with, text, encourage, and check-in with your **STRONGER MEN** group weekly. Work through the material in this packet.



**CHECK OUT PASTOR ADAMS APRIL  
STRONGER MEN MESSAGE HERE:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m9BkC3aMpXg>

1.04 / 37.41



**NEXT STRONGER MEN RALLY:**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 4TH 0600-0700**

**GRACE CITY CHURCH 277 MELODY LANE**

# WEEK 1 - APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup> - 8<sup>TH</sup>



## Make Every Effort...to Get Your Spiritual House in Order

- Luke 13:22-30; Hebrews 4:1-11; 2 Peter 1:10-11

*\*\*Have each man read the passage and think on the questions in advance, in preparation for your meeting/gathering. Even better, write out some responses to the questions. Come prepared!*

### Questions for Discussion:

1. Read the passages out loud together. What are some initial observations about the passage? What jumps out at you?
2. When did you first begin to take your spiritual condition seriously? What kinds of actions did you take?
3. The Bible teaches that salvation is by grace alone (not our merit) through faith alone (not our works) (see Eph. 2:8-9). Salvation is a result of God's grace & work through Jesus, not our own. And yet, we see the Scriptures exhorting us to "make every effort" to enter the narrow door, to enter spiritual rest, to make our calling and election sure. These are all referring to salvation. In other words, the "work/effort" is to "rest/enter" into God's finished work! Make sure you're saved! Why is it important for a professing Christian to continue to be diligent to attend to their spiritual condition and ensure the basic foundation of their salvation and faith?
4. What does this "effort" look like and how does it relate to the gospel of grace? (See 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 ... notice especially Paul's description of the relationship between effort/work and grace!) See Also: Philippians 2:12-13. How do you experience this relationship between grace and effort?
5. Discuss the danger in taking salvation for granted or merely assuming salvation? How is this picture of biblical salvation different from merely "believing in God"?
6. What is an action step that you need to take in light of this passage and discussion? Who comes to mind for you to pray for and to explore conversation with about spiritual matters of salvation?

**Close your time in prayer for each other.**



## **WEEK 2 - APRIL 11<sup>TH</sup> - 15<sup>TH</sup>**

### **Make Every Effort... to Keep Your Relational House in Order**

- Romans 14:19; Ephesians 4:1-6; Hebrews 12:14-15

*\*\*Have each man read the passage and think on the questions in advance, in preparation for your meeting/gathering. Even better, write out some responses to the questions. Come prepared!*

#### **Questions for Discussion:**

1. Read the passages out loud together. What are some initial observations about the passages? What jumps out at you?
2. Why are relationships so important in our Christian life and witness? What is it about relationships that reveal true character and spiritual fruit?
3. What does it look like for you, for us, to be diligent (to work hard, to make every effort) as far as it depends on us to have healthy, peace-filled relationships? How does this impact the way we approach conflict in the Body of Christ?
4. Are there any relationships you need to work on at the moment? Where do you need to "make every effort" right now relationally?
5. Why is bitterness/unforgiveness so deadly to relationships? How do you expose and deal with any "bitter roots" that begin to grow? How can you prevent bitter roots from growing? How have you dealt with these issues in the past?
6. Husbands/Fathers: How can you disciple your wife and kids in healthy relationships and avoiding the dangers of bitterness and unforgiveness?
7. What is your main action step or takeaway from these passages and this discussion?

**Close your time in prayer for each other.**



## **WEEK 3 - APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup> - 22<sup>ND</sup>**

### **Make Every Effort... to Grow Spiritually Mature**

- 2 Peter 1:5 & 3:14; 1 Timothy 4:11-16; Colossians 1:24-29

*\*\*Have each man read the passage and think on the questions in advance, in preparation for your meeting/gathering. Even better, write out some responses to the questions. Come prepared!*

### **Questions for Discussion:**

1. Read the passage out loud together. What are some initial observations about the passage? What jumps out at you?
2. In the Colossians passage, Paul expresses a significant aim of his mission is to present everyone (every man) perfect (mature) in Christ. And he's giving huge effort toward that end...helping men grow into maturity in Christ. Who has had the biggest impact on your spiritual growth? What was/is it about them that has encouraged you?
3. Helping others grow spiritually is one of the greatest ways to grow spiritually yourself. Who are you looking to help grow spiritually and what is involved in that process?
4. Describe the role diligence plays in pursuing spiritual growth and in discipling others?
5. On a scale of 1-10, what kind of effort are you currently giving to helping others grow spiritually? What would it look like and what would have to happen for that to increase?
6. What would it take to see a movement of men discipling their families and men discipling other men? What does that vision look like for you?
7. What's your main action step or takeaway from this passage and discussion?

**Close your time in prayer for each other.**

# WEEK 4 - APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup> - 29<sup>TH</sup>



## Selected Proverbs on Diligence

*\*\*Have each man read the passage and think on the questions in advance, in preparation for your meeting/gathering. Even better, write out some responses to the questions. Come prepared!*

- Prov. 10:4 - Lazy hands make for poverty, but diligent hands bring wealth.
- Prov. 12:24 - Diligent hands will rule, but laziness ends in forced labor.
- Prov. 12:27 - The lazy do not roast any game, but the diligent feed on the riches of the hunt.
- Prov. 13:4 - A sluggard's appetite is never filled, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied.
- Prov. 21:5 - The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.

## Questions for Discussion:

1. What initial thoughts come to mind as you read these Proverbs?
2. According to these verses, what are the specific blessings and benefits of diligence? What areas of life are specifically impacted in these verses?
3. Diligence is contrasted with laziness. What are the specific dangers associated with laziness in these verses?
4. How would you describe your dad or significant male figure in your life growing up in relationship to these verses? In what ways was he a positive example of diligence and in what ways was he a negative example?
5. How did you learn about the importance of diligence growing up?
6. Prov. 21:5 also contrasts planning vs. haste... what areas of your life currently need more of a "plan"?
7. How would you describe the current state of your finances? What adjustments do you need to make to be diligent in this area?
8. What's your main action step or takeaway from this passage and discussion?

**Close your time in prayer for each other.**

## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES for STRONGER MEN

### 1. Conquer Series: The Battle Plan for Purity - **Ted Roberts**

Trying harder doesn't work. The Conquer Series, unrivaled in its scope and authority, lays out the process to permanently stop watching porn with proven strategies and tools that have helped over 2 million men in 100+ nations find lasting freedom. Start your journey to freedom. <https://conquerseries.com/> (Watch the Trailer!) Email: [conquer@gracecitychurch.com](mailto:conquer@gracecitychurch.com) to connect with our team about help in this battle.

### 2. Spiritual Leadership: Principles of Excellence for Every Believer - **J. Oswald Sanders**

### 3. The Measure of A Man: Twenty Attributes of a Godly Man - **Gene A. Getz**

### 4. Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life - **Donald S. Whitney**

### 5. The Five Marks of a Man: Finding Your Path to Courageous Manhood - **Brian Tome**

### 6. Act Like Men: 40 Days to Biblical Manhood - **James Macdonald**

### 7. Disciplines of a Godly Man - **R. Kent Hughes**

### 8. Win Your War: Fight in the Realm You Don't See for Freedom in the One You Do - **Mark & Grace Driscoll**

### 9. Counterfeit Gods: The Empty Promises of Money, Sex, and Power and the Only Hope That Matters - **Timothy Keller**

### 10. The Shepherd Leader At Home: Knowing, Leading, Protecting, and Providing for Your Family - **Timothy Witmer**

### 11. Tender Warrior: God's Intention for a Man - **Stu Weber**

### 12. Four Pillars of A Man's Heart: Bringing Strength Into Balance - **Stu Weber**

