



Eagle Vision Partner Letter

How to Obtain Your Increase & Rewards

September 2004

Dear Partner,

I pray that you are moving forward with the Vision that God has given you. In order to see our vision, dreams or call come to pass (to it's fullness), there are some things that are absolutely vital that we must do. We must be faithful and diligent in all that God has called us to! When we continue in faithfulness and diligence, increase and rewards are inevitable for us! In **Proverbs 28:20**, it says that a faithful man shall (is obligated to) abound in blessings. Notice the words abound (increase or flourish) and blessings (rewards). So **Proverbs 28:20** is saying to us that if we are faithful unto the end, we are obligated to increase with rewards! (That's taken from the DPV---Deirdre's Paraphrased Version.)

Many of you watched the Summer Olympics Games a few weeks ago. I'm sure that you realize that gold medals were not won by people who *only* had a great and awesome *start* in a race. What really mattered was how they finished! There were some Olympians that made mistakes and did not complete the race. By their names was recorded "DNF" (which stands for "Did Not Finish"). If Jesus were to come back today to check on you, would there be a DNF beside your name in the areas that God has spoken to you about? What about WNF (Was Not Faithful)? What did you start out excited and faithfully doing? As you look back, are you as faithful as you once were? Has God changed His mind about that area of your life or have you changed your actions? At one time, were you faithfully praying everyday, but not anymore? What about tithing? Attending church services? Drinking more water? Exercising? What about studying God's Word? Singing in the Choir? Helping/Serving in the Church? Eating healthy? These are just a few areas that we can evaluate ourselves. Whatever God has instructed you or led you to do in these (and other areas), are you still doing them?

In **Matthew 25:14**, it begins a parable of the talents. Notice in **verse 19** it says "**After a long time...**". The lord of the servants did not come back until after a long time. He was coming back to see if they had been faithful with what he had given them. He wanted to see if they were doing what they were supposed to be doing. (*As a side note, if you are a leader in any area-- a company, a church, an organization, etc. there are times that you need to inspect what you expect. Not as a micro-manager, but good leaders check on those they lead.*) I know some of you feel that you have been faithful for a LONG time. Maybe you haven't seen the increase and blessings that you thought you would have seen by now. Be assured, as you continue to be faithful, and when you don't give up, rewards, increase, promotion and profits are inevitable (see **verse 21**). Jesus said the servant was "faithful". Why? Because there was a long time between the time that the lord gave the servants the talents and the time he returned to check on them. Also, the servant was still working with what he was given. The servant in **verse 26** was not working with what he had. He was making excuses. The lord called him wicked, slothful and in **verse 30** unprofitable! That's what happens when we become slack in areas-- those areas become of no profit, there's no increase. Maybe your life seems stagnant or it seems to have regressed instead of progressed. Check your faithfulness in some of the areas that I mentioned in the previous paragraph. **Is there anything that you know you should be continuing to do that you aren't?**

Let's look at some Biblical examples and see if they were faithful to the finish. Judas Iscariot had a great start. He was one of twelve "hand-picked" by Jesus to do the Works of God. That's a great start! What about Lucifer (now known as Satan), who resided in heaven. How did they finish? These two allowed pride and offense to hinder them from "finishing" like they should have. (It would take another letter to explain that point.) Now, let's look at two positive examples, Paul and Jesus. In **II Timothy 4:7**, Paul says I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Paul even tells us how he was able to finish his course, because he "kept" the faith.

He had plenty of opportunities to loose his faith, but he kept it. In **John 17:4**, Jesus said to the Father, I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. Jesus did not have to finish what He was supposed to do. He had a choice just like we do. What if He had slacked off. What if He would have said, during the time that He was being mocked and beaten, "This is just too hard. It's taking too long for this to be over with. I quit! I'm out of here!" What if He would have said, "I'll take the beating for them but I'm not going to let them nail me to that cross and I'm definitely not going to Hell for them." That sounds a bit ridiculous, but He could have done that. You do understand that He (Jesus) laid down His life, nobody took it from Him. That shows us that He made the choice to FINISH! **I'll say it again, it's not about how you start, it's how you finish.**

There is SO much potential in each of us. If anybody has the ability to be faithful and diligent to the finish, it is us, those who are Christians---the Body of Christ. Some people who serve false gods and false religions are exercising more faithfulness and diligence than we are. Not because they have more power-- **we have the only true power** in us (the Holy Ghost). It's all about making a decision and sticking with it. Our own choices "had been" holding us back. (Notice I put it in past tense.)

II Peter 1:10 says Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:. **Colossians 4:17** says ...Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it. **In order to fulfill the call, dream, vision we must be faithful!**

1 Corinthians 9:24 says Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. We should live our life for God to obtain a prize or reward. We can't expect to obtain our personal rewards if we are not faithful. In **Hebrews 3:14** For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end:. We must hold on to our confidence until the end. When's the end? When you see the manifestation of what you are in faith and confidence about.

Always remember that unfaithfulness causes decrease and loss while faithfulness and diligence yields increase, gains, profits and rewards; not just in your life, but in the lives of those whom you are called to affect (and this includes your children and family [current and future].)

I pray that we (the entire Body of Christ), walk in faithfulness and diligence so that we can **walk in God's fullness and finish each and everything that He desires us to do!**

Faithful to Finish,

Deirdre S. Council
Co-Pastor

6 Steps to Increase & Rewards

1. Recognize and admit to God that you have become slack and unfaithful in whatever areas that He's dealt with you about.
2. Write down (3) areas that you want to focus on improving.
3. Make a decision to do WHATEVER you need to do to continue in your decision.
4. Ask God to help you and trust Him to do so.
5. Trust Him to bring the increase, rewards and profits as you continue in your faithfulness.
6. Read these scriptures on faithfulness & diligence: **(Heb. 11:6), (Col. 3:23-24), (Luke 19:12-27), (Luke 12:42-46), (Luke 16:10-11)**

Share your testimonies with us as you see God move (because I know that He will)!

Ministry Update

◆ Thank you to Everyone that made our wedding anniversary & my birthday even more special! Thanks for your thoughtfulness, the cards and gifts! Thank you ECCI for all that you did, your love and... the St. John's Jewelry too! :o)
◆ ECCI will be celebrating our 2nd Church Anniversary on Sunday, November 14, 2004. Make plans to join us for this special day. Don't miss it.