

# *Effort Required*

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## Effort

The reader is asked to consider the following verses. Notice the emphasis on making an effort associated with keeping a good standing with God.

*Revelations 3:19* As for me, I rebuke and discipline everyone I love; **so exert yourselves, and turn from your sins!**

*Philippians 2:12-13* So, my dear friends, just as you have always obeyed when I was with you, it is even more important that you obey now when I am away from you: **keep working out your deliverance with fear and trembling**, for God is the one working among you both the willing and the working for what pleases him.

*James 1:1-4* From: James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus the Messiah To: The Twelve Tribes in the Diaspora: Peace! Regard it all as joy, my brothers, when you face various kinds of temptations; for you know that the testing of your trust produces perseverance. But let perseverance do its complete work; so that you may be complete and whole, lacking in nothing.

*James 1:12* How blessed is the man who **perseveres through temptation!** For **after** he has passed the test, he will receive as his crown the Life which God has promised to those who love him.

*Ephesians 6:5* Slaves, obey your human masters **with the same fear, trembling and single-heartedness with which you obey the Messiah.**

*Matthew 7:13-14* "Go in through the narrow gate; for the gate that leads to destruction is wide and the road broad, and many travel it; **but it is a narrow gate and a hard road that leads to life, and only a few find it.**

*Luke 13:23-24* Someone asked him, "Are only a few people being saved?" He answered, "**Struggle to get in through the narrow door**, because – I'm telling you! – many will be demanding to get in and won't be able to,

*John 12:25* He who loves his life loses it, but **he who hates his life in this world will keep it safe right on into eternal life!**

These principles are tough principles. We should be aware of them

*Genesis 4:7* If you are doing what is good, shouldn't you hold your head high? And if you don't do what is good, sin is crouching at the door – it wants you, but you can rule over it."

This was God's first teaching on sin. It is still valid today. It takes effort. One must become disciplined, like a star athlete.