

VALUE FOR ALL THINGS

1 Timothy 4.7b-8; 2 Peter 1.3-9

*Train yourself to be **godly**. For physical training is of some value, but **godliness** has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.* 1 Timothy 4.7b-8

There is no higher compliment that can be paid to a Christian than to call them a godly person. They might be a conscientious parent, a zealous church worker, a dynamic spokesman for Christ, or a talented Christian leader; but none of these things matters if, at the same time, they are not a godly person.

The words *godly* and *godliness* actually appear only a few times in the New Testament; yet the entire Bible is a book on godliness. And when those words do appear they are pregnant with meaning and instruction for us.

¹¹ *For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.* ¹² *It teaches us to say 'No' to **ungodliness** and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and **godly lives** in this present age,* ¹³ *while we wait for the blessed hope – the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.* Titus 3.11-13

*Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of God's elect and the knowledge of the truth that leads to **godliness**.* Titus 1.1

¹⁰ *But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.*

¹¹ *Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and **godly lives*** ¹² *as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.* 2 Peter 3.10-12

³ *His divine power has given us everything we need for life and **godliness** through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.* ⁴ *Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.* 2 Peter 1.3-9

DEVOTION IN ACTION

The New Testament word for godliness, in its original meaning, conveys the idea of a personal attitude toward God that results in actions that are pleasing to God. This personal attitude toward God is what we call devotion to God. But it is always *devotion in action*.

FOCUSED ON GOD

Devotion is not an activity; it is an attitude toward God. This attitude is composed of three essential elements:

- the **Fear of God**

Acts 9.31; Romans 3.18; 1 John 4.18; Philippians 2.12; 1 Peter 1.17

- the **Love of God**

Psalms 130.1-8; 1 Timothy 1.15; Romans 8.31-39; 2 Corinthians 5.14-15; 1 John 4.19

- the **Desire for God**.

Psalms 42.1-11; 27.4; 63.1; Philippians 3.10

The practice of godliness is an exercise or discipline that focuses upon God. So the definition of godliness we will use in this series is *devotion to God which results in a life that is pleasing to him*.

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