

TRAIN YOURSELF TO BE GODLY

1 Timothy 4.7b-8

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. 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.

Titus 1.1; 3.11-13; 2 Peter 1.3-9; 3.10-12

DEVOTION TO GOD & TAKING ON GOD'S CHARACTER

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*. Devotion is not an activity; it is an attitude toward God.

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

The Desire for God – Psalm 42.1-11; 27.4; 63.1; Philippians 3.10

Further, godliness consists of two distinct but complementary traits, and the person who wants to train himself to be godly must pursue both with equal vigor. The first trait is God-centeredness, which we call devotion to God; the second is Godlikeness, which we call Christian character. Godly character flows out of devotion to God and practically confirms the reality of that devotion.

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, **clothe yourselves** with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Colossians 3.12

Because of what Christ has done for us, we are free to choose. So, let's choose...

- Humility (Before God) Luke 18.14
- Bible Intake (For Ourselves) 1 Thessalonians 2.13; 2 Timothy 3.16
- Patience (Toward Others) Colossians 3.12-13
- Worship (Before God) Matthew 15.8-9; John 4.23-24
- Holiness (For Ourselves) 1 John 1.5; 1 Peter 1.16
- Gentleness (Toward Others) Galatians 5.22-23; Colossians 3.12
- Contentment (Before God) 1 Timothy 6.6-16
- Faithfulness/Integrity (For Ourselves) Proverbs 20.6; Luke 16.10-15
- Kindness/Goodness (Toward Others) Galatians 6.10; Luke 6.27-36
- Giving/Stewardship (Before God) Ephesians 5.15-16
- Peace (For Ourselves) Romans 12.17-21
- Service (Toward Others) John 13.12-16; Psalm 100.2; Deuteronomy 13.4
- Thankfulness (Before God) Psalm 100; Luke 17.11-19
- Fasting (For Ourselves) Matthew 6.16-18
- Witness (Toward Others) Matthew 5.13-16; 28.19-20
- Joy (Before God) Romans 14.17; 1 Thess. 5.16; Phil. 4.4
- Church (Before God, Ourselves, and Others) Hebrews 12.22-24
- Solitude (For Ourselves) 1 Peter 5.6-11

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