

*THE **ABC**'s
of
Becoming
A Better Christian*

G***ODLINESS***

Key Passages

1 Timothy 4:7-8 (ESV)

7 Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather **TRAIN YOURSELF FOR GODLINESS**;
8 for while bodily training is of some value, **GODLINESS IS OF VALUE IN EVERY WAY**,
as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

1 Timothy 6:6-7 (ESV)

6 Now there is **GREAT GAIN IN GODLINESS WITH CONTENTMENT**,
7 for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.

2 Timothy 3:5 (ESV)

5 having **THE APPEARANCE OF GODLINESS** but denying its power. Avoid such people.

2 Peter 1:5-7 (NIV)

5 For this very reason, make every effort to **add to your faith** goodness; and to goodness, knowledge;
6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, **GODLINESS**;
7 and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.

What Is Godliness?

GODLINESS Is A Term That means conforming to the character of God in your thoughts, feelings, desires, and actions. “**GODLINESS**” simply means living for God.

When you **LIVE FOR GOD**, you will see a difference in your life—in your job, in your family, in your finances, and in your health. **Godliness** is **PROFITABLE** in all things. You will also see a difference in the lives of those around you.

GODLINESS is that **lifestyle** which glorifies God

Godliness Is Mostly Mentioned In The Pastoral Epistle To Timothy Why?

The spread of false doctrine at Ephesus is producing ungodliness, ungodly behavior, unrighteousness. So Paul is very concerned that the Christians in the church at Ephesus are practicing godliness daily. Unhealthy teaching was producing a kind of lifestyle that is only a "**form of godliness**," a kind of outward religion and religious belief, but one which lacks its real evidence of a changed life....

Godliness Was Not Mentioned In Old Testament
Jesus Did Not Speak Of Godliness

Once The Church Was Given The Holy Spirit That Was An Expectation To Live A Godly Life

Keys To Godliness

*Godliness Must Be **A**uthentic*

*Godliness Requires **E**ffort*

*Godliness Must Be **I**ntentional*

*Godliness Is Not **O**ptional*

*Godliness Is Seldom **U**nderstood*



Godliness Must Be **A**uthentic

2 Timothy 3:1-5 (ESV)

1 But understand this, that in the last days *there will come times of difficulty*.

2 For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good,

4 treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

5 **HAVING THE APPEARANCE OF GODLINESS**, but **DENYING ITS POWER**. Avoid such people.

Those who have a **FORM OF GODLINESS** are those who make an *outward display of religion*.

They present themselves as godly, but it is *ALL FOR SHOW*. *There is no power behind their religion*, as evidenced in the fact that **THEIR LIVES ARE UNCHANGED**. They *speak of God* and *live in sin...*

When You **Display The Power Of God...** It Is **EVIDENCE** That You Are Practicing **GODLINESS**
There Will Be Fruit!!!

To Deny The Power ~ Refuse To Allow The Holy Spirit To Have Control Of Your Life

A FORM OF GODLINESS” does not alter the way a person lives! It allows them to do what they want to do ~ *to set their own standards*, and yet *proclaim that it is acceptable to God*, and is therefore “Godly” *what they believe, and do*.

This is the big deception of religion today. It allows “standards” that God disapproves of,

YET SEEKS TO CONVINCe PEOPLE THAT IT IS, IN FACT, ACCEPTABLE.

Godliness Must Be **A**uthentic

Tragedy Of Not Being Authentic

Matthew 7:21-23 (NIV)

- 21 "Not everyone who **says to me, 'Lord, Lord,'** will enter the kingdom of heaven, but **ONLY HE WHO DOES THE WILL OF MY FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN.**
- 22 Many will say to me on that day, **'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?'**
- 23 Then I will tell them plainly, **'I NEVER KNEW YOU.** Away from me, you evildoers!"

Whose Standards Are We Living By...

Luke 18:9-14 (NIV)

- 9 To some who were **confident of their own righteousness** and **looked down on everybody else,** Jesus told this parable:
- 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.
- 11 The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: **'God, I thank you that I am not like other men--robbers, evildoers, adulterers--or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'**
- 13 "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, **'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'** 14 "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. **For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."**

Godliness Requires *Effort*

1 Timothy 4:7-8 (ESV)

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8 for while bodily training is of some value, **GODLINESS IS OF VALUE IN EVERY WAY**,
as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

Effort Requires Time and Training

Spiritual Fitness requires *daily training* in the same way that *physical fitness* requires regular exercise.

You cannot spend **TIME** with irrelevant and silly conversations that **DO NOT PRODUCE GODLINESS...**
Spend Time In Daily Devotion, Meditation, and Studying God's Word.

Training Requires Discipline and Dedication

1 Corinthians 9:27 ~ I Discipline my body **daily** like an athlete.....s

Discipline In Your Diet

Discipline In Your Rest

Discipline In Your Exercise

What Type Of Spiritual Shape Are You In?



Godliness Must Be *Intentional*

2 Peter 1:3 (NIV)

*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.*

2 Peter 1:5-7 (NIV)

*5 For this very reason, make every effort to **add to your faith** goodness; and to goodness, knowledge;
6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, **GODLINESS**;
7 and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.*

*We must **make a choice to pursue GODLINESS.***

***FAITH IS OUR FOUNDATION....** But We Must **Add To Our Faith** To Become *Spiritually Mature**

*In Order To **Add** Godliness, You May Have To **Subtract** things that are causing **division** in your life*

Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)

*1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, **let us throw off everything that hinders** and **the sin that so easily entangles and** let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.*



Godliness Is Not **O**ptional

Titus 2:11-12 (ESV)

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,
12 *training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions,*
and **TO LIVE SELF-CONTROLLED, UPRIGHT, AND GODLY LIVES** in the present age,

Many People Feel That Grace Is **A License** To Live How We Desire

Grace Gave Us Salvation

The Holy Spirit Leads Us To Sanctification

Sanctification Is The Process Of Making Us More Like Christ

To Be Like Christ We Must Abandon Our Old Way Of Living

Ephesians 2:1-5 (ESV)

1 And you were *dead in the trespasses and sins* 2 in which you *once walked, following the course of this world,*
following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—
3 among whom *we all once lived in the passions of our flesh,* carrying out the desires of the body and the mind,
and were by nature children of wrath, *like the rest of mankind.*

4 **BUT GOD**, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,
5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— **BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED**—

Godliness Is Seldom **U**nderstood

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***Godliness** can't be assumed. *It must be understood* and *pursued intentionally**

We Don't Understand The Value Of Godliness

Godliness Pleases God

Pleasing God Brings Great Rewards

*The Church Has Done A Great Job About Highlighting Heavenly Rewards
Mansion, Streets Made With Gold, A Crown, A Tree For Healing, Never Ending Worship*

*But What About Rewards In This Present Life
Godliness Brings Forth The Promises Of This Present Life*



In Conclusion.....

*Godliness Must Be **A**uthentic*

*Godliness Requires **E**ffort*

*Godliness Must Be **I**ntentional*

*Godliness Is Not **O**ptional*

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