

Add to Your Faith
Godliness
I Tim. 4:7-8

Introduction:

The term godliness is more than just god-like-ness. It is more than just putting on the moral attributes of God (as the others in this list do). It is a respect and a reverence for God himself as the creator of all things.

If godliness were merely godlike, then there would be no need for it to be listed in **II Pet. 1: 5-8** because other characteristics of God are mentioned in this passage.

James Tolle: "Perhaps a better word for godliness would be god-ward-ness, a state of mind which accepts God as the sole object of its adoration and reverential respect, the central object of its trust, and the infallible source of all religious responsibility" (The Christian Graces, 51).

Remember this as we go throughout this lesson: "Godliness...is a state of mind" (or a way of life for us). Godliness is not a check list that we add to our lives. It is what our life should be.

- I. If we are going to be godly, we need to put Him first in our lives.
 - A. In order to put God first in our lives, we must understand more about who God truly is.
 1. Notice a few of the descriptions that we have of God throughout the Bible.
 - a. Creator
 - 1) **Gen. 1:1** - In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
 - 2) **John 1:3** - All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.
 - 3) **Col. 1:15-16** - He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. {16} For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.
 - b. Eternal
 - 1) **Gen. 21:33** - Then Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there called on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God.
 - c. Holy
 - 1) **I Pet. 1:15-16** - but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, {16} because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."
 - d. Love
 - 1) **I John 4:7-11**
 - 2) **John 3:16** - For God so loved the world that He gave His

only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

- e. It is because of the love of God that we can have the salvation of our souls.
 - 1) We can have that home in heaven with God.
 - 2) **II Cor. 5:1** - For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.
 - 2. It is because of these attributes of God, and many more that we could name, that we should want to put God first in our lives.
 - B. By putting God first in our minds, we will put Him first in our lives (or actions).
 - 1. There will be no thought as to how we are going to worship; we will worship with all that we have.
 - 2. There will be no thought as to how much we are going to give; we will give what we can.
 - 3. There will be no discussions as to whether we are going to Bible class or Sunday night or Wednesday night worship; we will desire to go.
 - 4. There will be no thought as to how we will try to live our lives; we will live everyday for God in the manner that He would have us to live.
 - C. To be godly, we must put God first in our lives.
- II. If we are going to be godly we must take the time to be godly (**4:7-8**).
- A. Just as we take time to exercise physically, we must take the time to exercise spiritually.
 - 1. It is important to take care of our bodies because they are the temple of God.
 - a. **I Cor. 3:16-17** - Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? {17} If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.
 - b. **I Cor. 6:19-20** - Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? {20} For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.
 - c. **II Cor. 6:16** - And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people."
 - 2. However, it is also important to take care of our spiritual bodies.
 - B. It is through the word of God that we gain the knowledge for godliness that we need.

1. **II Pet. 1:3** - as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,
 2. **I Tim. 6:3-6**
 3. **Titus 1:1-3** - Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness, {2} in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began, {3} but has in due time manifested His word through preaching, which was committed to me according to the commandment of God our Savior;
 4. We must learn the word of God so that we can become godly people.
 5. In order for us to learn His word, we must spend time in His word.
 6. Godliness is not something that happens overnight; it is a process which we must steadily apply to our lives.
- C. It is also important that we teach our children how to be godly.
1. We do this not only through what we tell them, but also by the example that we set before them.
 2. We cannot expect our children to be godly if we ourselves are not godly.
- III. When we are godly we are profitable for all things (**4:8**).
- A. We have the promise that now is.
1. Godliness, along with the other characteristics that are mentioned in II Pet. 1:5-7, helps to teach us how we are to live among men.
 2. **II Pet. 1:3-4** - as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, {4} by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.
- B. There is also that promise which is to come.
1. **Titus 2:11-14** - For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, {12} teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, {13} looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,
 2. This promise is that home in heaven with God.

Conclusion:

Are you a godly person?

Is God first in your life?

Are you constantly living for God?