

“The Determination to Live Godly”
II Timothy 3:12

Introduction: As we read I and II Timothy, we notice the emphasis that Paul stresses to Timothy concerning the area of godliness. In fact, the word “*godliness*” appears ten times in these epistles while “*godly*” is seen twice. From these instances, we may conclude that a believer must strive for godliness in their life that they may please the Lord. However, in order to understand what godliness is we must look at its definition and applications in the Scriptures. Notice:

“*godliness*” (Strong’s)- “reverence, respect; piety towards God”

“*godliness*” (Webster’s)- “A religious life; a careful observance of the laws of God and performance of religious duties, proceeding from love and reverence for the divine character and commands; Christian obedience.”

1. The Fervency of Godliness I Timothy 4:7- “*But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness*”
 - a. “*exercise*” (Strong’s)- “to exercise vigorously, in any way, either the body or the mind”
 - b. “*exercise*” (Webster’s)- “In a general sense, to move; to exert; to cause to act, in any manner; as, to exercise the body or the hands; to exercise the mind, the powers of the mind, the reason or judgment.”
 - (1) “To use; to exert; as, to exercise authority or power.”
 - (2) “To use for improvement in skill; as, to exercise arms.”
 - (3) “To practice; to perform the duties of; as, to exercise an office.”
 - c. Exercise Leads to Discernment Hebrews 5:14- “*But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil*”
 - d. Exercise Leads to Development Hebrews 12:11- “*Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby*”
2. The Future of Godliness I Timothy 4:8- “*For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come*”
 - a. “*profitable*” (Strong’s)- “advantage, profit”
 - b. “*profitable*” (Webster’s)- “Yielding or bringing profit or gain; gainful; Useful; advantageous”
3. The Fulfillment of Godliness I Timothy 6:6- “*But godliness with contentment is great gain*”
 - a. “*gain*” (Webster’s)- “To have advantage or profit”
 - b. “*gain*” (Webster’s)- “To win; to obtain by superiority or success; as, to gain a battle or a victory; to gain a prize; to gain a cause in law.”
4. The Following of Godliness I Timothy 6:11- “*But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness*”

- a. *“follow”* (Strong’s)- “to run swiftly in order to catch a person or thing, to run after”
 - b. *“follow”* (Webster’s)- “To pursue; to chase”
5. The Form of Godliness II Timothy 3:5- *“Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away”*
- a. *“form”* (Strong’s)- “a forming, shaping; external appearance”
 - b. *“form”* (Webster’s)- “The shape or external appearance of a body; the figure, as defined by lines and angles”

Body: From these illustrations, we learn that godliness is something that does not occur naturally. It must be pursued and maintained in order for it to work in our daily lives. Godliness is an element that some try to mimic, but fail to achieve. However, when one lives a godly life it proves to be profitable and fruitful. There is great advantage to those who desire to live godly. This is the point that Paul reveals in II Timothy 3:12. Notice Paul addresses those who *“will live godly”*. According to Strong’s, the word *“will”* suggests “to be resolved or determined, to purpose”. Therefore, we conclude that a believer must be determined to live godly. It must be their purpose and goal in life. They must submit (To subject ourselves to the authority of another) to godliness and not just surrender (A forced surrender regardless to the will; a sign of defeat). Now we must turn to the Scriptures to see what godliness produces.

“godly” (Strong’s)- “whatever can in any respect be likened unto God, or resemble him in any way”

“godly” (Webster’s)- “Living in obedience to God's commands, from a principle of love to him and reverence of his character and precepts; religious; righteous; as a godly person.”

- I. The Godly Separation Psalm 4:3- *“But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the LORD will hear when I call unto him”*
 - A. The Singularity of the Godly- *“But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself”*
 - B. The Supplication of the Godly- *“the LORD will hear when I call unto him”*
- II. The Godly Steadfastness Psalm 12:1- *“Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men”*
 - A. The Failing of the Godly- *“Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth”*
 - 1. It produces a Cry of Distress- *“Help, LORD”*
 - 2. It produces a Command for Devotion- *“for the godly man ceaseth”*
(There is a difference between being good and being godly! They were crying for a godly man, not a good man!)
 - B. The Faltering of the Godly- *“for the faithful fail from among the children of men”*
- III. The Godly Seed Malachi 2:15- *“And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth”*

- A. The Statement of Marriage- *“And did not he make one?”*
1. “That is, did not God make one man, and out of his rib one woman? Did he not make man, male and female? Did he not make one pair, one couple, only Adam and Eve, whom he joined together in marriage?” (John Gill)
 2. “Which shows that his intention and will were that one man should have but one wife at a time; the contrary to which was the then present practice of the Jews.” (John Gill)
- B. The Statement of Might- *“Yet had he the residue of the spirit.”*
1. *“residue”* (Strong’s)- “rest, residue, remnant, remainder”
 2. “It was not for want of power that he made but one woman of Adam’s rib, and breathed into her the breath of life, or infused into her a human soul or spirit; he could have made many women at the same time; and as the Father of spirits, having the residue of them with him, or a power left to make as many as he pleased, he could have imparted spirits unto them, and given Adam more wives than one...” (John Gill)
 3. “If divorce had been good, Jesus says, God would not have made one man and one woman, but, having made one Adam, would have made two women, had He meant that he should cast out the one, bring in the other; but now by the mode of creation, He brought in this law, that each should have, throughout, the wife which he had from the beginning. This law is older than that about divorce, as much as Adam is older than Moses.” (Barnes Notes)
- C. The Statement of Meaning- *“And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed.”*
1. “What is the reason why he made but one woman, when he could have made ten thousand, or as many as he pleased?” (John Gill)
 2. “Here Malachi commended the faithful husbands who obeyed the Spirit of God and the Word of God. Unlike the men who took pagan wives just to satisfy their sexual hunger, these men wanted to father children who would be a godly seed, devoted Jews, and not idol worshipers.” (Warren Wiersbe)
 3. “The basic issue was not race, for humans are humans whether they are Jews or Midianites. The basic issue was loyalty to the God of Israel and the maintaining of a godly home.” (Warren Wiersbe)
 4. “God called Israel to be the channel for bringing the Messiah into the world, and anything that corrupted that stream would work against His great plan of salvation. God commanded the Jews to be a separate people, not because they were better than any other nation, but because He had a very special task for them to perform. Anything that broke down that wall of separation would play into the hands of the evil one who did all he could to keep the Messiah from being born.” (Warren Wiersbe)
- D. The Statement of Morality- *“Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth”*

1. "...to your affections, that they do not go after other women, and be led thereby to take them in marriage, and to despise and divorce the lawful wife..." (John Gill)
2. "...by marrying another, or divorcing her..." (John Gill)

IV. The Godly Sincerity II Corinthians 1:12- *"For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward"*

A. Concerning the Conscience- *"For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience"*

1. *"conscience"* (Strong's)- "the soul as distinguishing between what is morally good and bad, prompting to do the former and shun the latter, commending one, condemning the other"
2. *"conscience"* (Webster's)- "Internal or self-knowledge, or judgment of right and wrong; or the faculty, power or principle within us, which decides on the lawfulness or unlawfulness of our own actions and affections, and instantly approves or condemns them."

B. Concerning the Cleanliness- *"that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom"*

1. *"sincerity"* (Strong's)- "purity; pure, sincere, unsullied; found pure when unfolded and examined by the sun's light"
2. *"sincerity"* (Webster's)- "Freedom from hypocrisy, disguise or false pretense"

C. Concerning the Conversation- *"but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward"*

1. *"conversation"* (Strong's)- "metaph. to conduct one's self, behave one's self, live"
2. *"conversation"* (Webster's)- "General course of manners; behavior; deportment; especially as it respects morals."

V. The Godly Sorrow II Corinthians 7:10- *"For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death"*

A. The Definition of Sorrow

1. *"sorrow"* (Strong's)- "sorrow, pain, grief, annoyance, affliction; of persons mourning"
2. *"sorrow"* (Webster's)- "The uneasiness or pain of mind which is produced by the loss of any good. Or of frustrated hopes of good, or expected loss of happiness; to grieve; to be sad."

B. The Distinctions of Sorrow II Corinthians 7:9

1. "The sorrow according to God does work this change of mind and life unto salvation, a change not to be regretted." (RWP)
2. "In contrast, the kind of sorrow that the world has, grief for failure, not for sin, for the results as seen in Cain, Esau (his tears), and Judas (remorse)." (RWP)

3. “The difference is seen in Judas and Peter. Judas repented himself (was full of regret) and went and committed suicide, while Peter wept and repented of his fall.” (Warren Wiersbe)

VI. The Godly Strengthening I Timothy 1:4- *“Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do”*

A. The Action- *“godly edifying”*

1. *“edifying”* (Strong’s)- *“(the act of) building, erection;*
2. *“edifying”* (Webster’s)- *“Building up in Christian knowledge; instructing; improving the mind.”*

B. The Anchor- *“which is in faith”*

VII. The Godly Suffering II Timothy 3:12- *“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution”*

A. The Determined Responsibility to Living Godly- *“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus”*

B. The Direct Result of Living Godly- *“shall suffer persecution”*

1. I Peter 2:21- *“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps”*
2. I Peter 3:14- *“But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled”*
3. I Peter 4:12-16

VIII. The Godly Saving II Peter 2:9- *“The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished”*

A. The Removal- *“The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations”*

1. The Endurance of Temptation James 1:12- *“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him”*
2. The Escape from Temptation I Corinthians 10:13- *“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it”*

B. The Reservation- *“and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished”*

1. Luke 17:29- *“But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all”*
2. II Peter 2:5- *“And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly”*

Conclusion: Godliness in the life of a believer will prove to be of great gain. A godly Christian will be able to pray to God while serving Him in sincerity. Reproducing this consecration in their children will come naturally because they have consecrated their walk with God. Although they will suffer for righteousness sake, our Lord will strengthen them daily. In the end, God will deliver them and preserve them from the onslaught of Satan. Certainly, godliness is profitable in all things.