

BOOK OF 2 PETER
KEYS TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH
ADD GODLINESS TO PATIENCE
2 PETER 1:5-7

We have been looking at this passage for a number of weeks now and we are seeing the **SPIRITUAL HABITS** that we need to be **ADDING** or **BUILDING** into our lives as **BELIEVERS** so that we can **GROW SPIRITUALLY** and **MATURE** in our **WALK** with the **LORD**.

Understand that it is one thing to **KNOW** what we need to **ADD** in our life! But it is yet another thing entirely to actually **BUILD** these things into our life! Let me ask this, just how well are you **BUILDING** right now on the **FOUNDATION OF YOUR FAITH IN CHRIST?**

Our answer to that question will determine if we are **GROWING** and just **how much** and **how well** we will **GROW** in our **WALK** with the **LORD!**

What we are looking at here is **NOT** some man's philosophy or we could just take it or leave it. This is part of **GOD'S TRUTH!** Understand that **GOD** gave the **APOSTLES** to the **CHURCH** for the purpose of **COMMUNICATING HIS TRUTH** to help bring us to **MATURITY!** (*Ephesians 4:11-15*)

The **WORD OF GOD** comes from **GOD**, not from man!
If we belittle the **TRUTH**, we will be little for **GOD!**
If we ignore the **TRUTH**, we do so to our own hurt!

BIBLICAL TRUTH is meant to make our lives **BETTER!**
BIBLICAL TRUTH is meant for us to **DELIGHT IN!**
BIBLICAL TRUTH is meant for us to **MEDITATE ON!**
BIBLICAL TRUTH is meant for us to **LEARN!**
BIBLICAL TRUTH is meant for us to **BELIEVE!**
BIBLICAL TRUTH is meant for us to **APPLY!**
BIBLICAL TRUTH is meant for us to **LIVE!**

Our text is still *2 Peter 1:5-7* for today! Thus far we have seen that in order to be **EFFECTIVE BELIEVERS** who are **MATURING IN THE FAITH...**

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- 1) We must **BE DILIGENT** IN **ADDING THESE THINGS** in our life that will bring about **SPIRITUAL MATURITY** in our life! (If we don't **APPLY** ourselves and put for the needed **EFFORT** we will not **GROW** as the **LORD** would have us to!)
- 2) We must begin by **ADDING** and **cultivating a passion for VIRTUE**—**AN INWARD DESIRE TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT!**
- 3) We then must **concentrate on increasing our BIBLICAL KNOWLEDGE** so that we can **KNOW WHAT IS RIGHT!**
- 4) After that we must develop **TEMPERANCE**—that is, we must have the **SELF-CONTROL** to go ahead and **DO WHAT IS RIGHT once we know what the RIGHT THING to do is! JUST DO IT!**
- 5) And then we saw last week how we must maintain **PATIENCE** or **SPIRITUAL ENDURANCE**—that is, we must **KEEP ON DOING THE RIGHT THING!** Not letting anything divert us from that!

The **LORD** not only wants us to **BUILD** these things into our lives but he wants us to **CONTINUE** in them until **JESUS** comes to take us home to be with **HIM**.

Vs 6 says that next we are to add **GODLINESS** to our **PATIENCE!**

WHAT IS GODLINESS?

Let's define what **PETER** is writing about here!

The word **GODLINESS** is translated from a word meaning "*devout, godly; showing devotion and piety toward God.*"

Understand that "**PIETY**" is a word that has been defamed and misdefined in our modern society. (Many who use the word think of it as having a "*better than thou attitude,*" but that is **NOT** the case! There is nothing wrong and everything right about **TRUE PIETY.**

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“PIETY,” in *principle*, means having the highest degree of RESPECT and REVERENCE FOR GOD—i.e. RESPECT FOR GOD mingled with some degree of AWE.

“PIETY” in *practice*, is the EXERCISE OF THESE AFFECTIONS in OBEDIENCE TO GOD’S WILL and DEVOTION TO HIS SERVICE!

So, this matter of GODLINESS denotes both CHARACTER and CONDUCT DETERMINED BY THE PRINCIPLE OF LOVE OF GOD AND THE FEAR OF GOD IN THE HEART!

GODLINESS is simply BEING LIKE GOD in our THOUGHTS and ACTIONS or we could say it is BEING A GODLY PERSON! It is living life like GOD intends for us to live!

The BIBLE reveals that MANKIND was CREATED in the IMAGE OF GOD— i.e. GOD MADE US TO REFLECT AND BEAR HIS IMAGE!

But then SIN entered and FALLEN MANKIND no longer REFLECTED that IMAGE as GOD INTENDED! GOD wanted us to be like HIM in our NATURE, but our NATURE was CORRUPTED BY SIN!

Enter CHRIST— IN CHRIST, we are NEW CREATURES!
2 Corinthians 5:17—“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

That means that we have been made PARTAKERS of GOD’S DIVINE NATURE (*Vs 3-4*), yet we still live in this CORRUPT FLESH! GOD wants us to WALK IN (or according to) the HOLY SPIRIT, rather than WALK IN (or according to) the dictates of our FLESH! *Galatians 5:16, 25*

A WALK of GODLINESS is a WALK IN THE SPIRIT!
Galatians 5:22–23—“22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance:...”

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A WALK of GODLINESS is to WALK AS JESUS WALKED!
1 John 2:6—“He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.”

How did JESUS WALK?...HE WALKED IN THE SPIRIT...HE WALKED IN OBEDIENCE TO HIS FATHER!
John 8:29—“...for I do always those things that please him.”

So GODLINESS means to be CHRIST-LIKE.
Galatians 2:20—“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

So, the word GODLINESS means to EMULATE the very CHARACTER, NATURE, and BEHAVIOR OF GOD!

GOD’S NATURE—PURITY, HOLINESS, LOVE, ETC. We are talking about a DEVOTION TO GOD which results in a LIFE that is PLEASING TO GOD!

GODLINESS includes the HOLY AFFECTIONS and DISPOSITIONS FOUND IN THE TRUE WORSHIPER OF GOD who wants to be more like GOD! (That goes back to VIRTUE!)

GODLINESS includes A DEPENDENCE ON GOD that reveals itself in A DEVOTED LIFE.

GODLINESS of necessity comes out of A SPIRIT OF AWE and REVERENCE TOWARD GOD and it is A YIELDING TO GOD IN OPINION AND JUDGMENT IN ALL MATTERS.

GODLINESS is living one’s life in the CONSCIOUS PRESENCE OF THE HOLINESS OF GOD. It is HAVING ONE’S HEART CAPTIVATED BY THE LORD.

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GODLINESS denotes A LIFE THAT IS ACCEPTABLE TO CHRIST, indicating the **PROPER ATTITUDE** of the BELIEVER toward CHRIST WHO has saved him! (“*It’s my desire, to be like JESUS.*”)

It is both AN **ATTITUDE** and A **MANNER OF LIFE**.

It is in this **MANNER** that PAUL told TIMOTHY in *1 Timothy 4:7*, “*Exercise thyself rather unto godliness.*”

It **DOES NOT COME AUTOMATICALLY**, but is something into which we must put forth EFFORT. In *1 Timothy 6:11*, PAUL urged TIMOTHY to “*follow after righteousness, godliness.*”

In *2 Timothy 3:5*, we are told that it is possible to **fake GODLINESS** because PAUL mentioned those “*having a form of godliness.*” (i.e. an appearance of **GODLINESS** and not the real thing.)

1 Timothy 6:5 tells us of some false teachers who equated gain with **GODLINESS**. “. . .*supposing that gain is godliness.*”

In *1 Timothy 6:3*, we are told that **FALSE TEACHING DOES NOT LEAD TO A HOLY LIFE**. (i.e. **HOLINESS OF LIFE** is an indicator of **ADHERING TO SOUND DOCTRINE**.)

The term **GODLINESS** then, refers to **RESPONDING TO GOD PROPERLY WITH REVERENCE AND DEVOTION!** It refers to **HAVING A RIGHT UNDERSTANDING and RESPONSE to “WHO GOD IS” and “WHAT GOD HAS DONE.”**

GODLINESS refers to a desire to have our character transformed TO **BE LIKE THE CHARACTER OF GOD!**

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I believe the point of this, especially in light of the progression of **SPIRITUAL GROWTH** that PETER gives us as we **ADD TO OUR FAITH**, is simply this: The **CHRISTIAN** life is **much more than just OBEYING COMMANDS. IT IS WALKING WITH GOD!**

We will not grow much as a **BELIEVER** until we understand that we are not just engaged in an effort to keep a set of rules, but we are **involved in THE RELATIONSHIP OF RELATIONSHIPS**. We have and are developing A **RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LIVING GOD!**

Let's **ADD TO OUR FAITH** this matter of **GODLINESS**, A **GENUINE DESIRE AND DIRECTION IN OUR LIFE TO PLEASE GOD THAT IS BORN OUT OF REVERENCE FOR HIM!**

There are **BIBLICAL** examples of **BIBLE CHARACTERS** who had this **GODLINESS** in their lives.

1. **ENOCH Walked With GOD!**
(*Genesis 5:22-24; Hebrews 11:5; Jude 14-15*)
2. **NOAH Walked With GOD!** (*Genesis 6:8-9*)
3. **JOSEPH – The LORD was with him.** (*Genesis 39:3, 23*)
4. **DANIEL – Purposed in his heart...had an excellent spirit.**
(*Daniel 1:8; 5:11-12; Daniel 6:3-5, 10-11*)

(Others Abraham and Paul, etc.)

Conclusion

So what is **GODLINESS** all about? It's about being **GOD’S MAN, GOD’S LADY, GOD’S TEENAGER, GOD’S BOY or GIRL!**

Psalm 1

Could you wear that brand? Will you wear that brand?