

HOW TO GROW IN GODLINESS?

PART TWO

7. MEDITATE ON GOD'S WORD AND ABIDE IN CHRIST THROUGH PRAYER

- ❖ **Joshua 1:8**, This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, **so that you may be careful to do** according to all that is written in it.

2 Timothy 3:16-17, All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for **training in righteousness**, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

- ❖ **John 15:4-5**, “Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”

Someone said, “If we do not abide in Christ through active prayer, we will never have the strength to live holy.”

8. UNDERSTAND THE SINFUL NATURE OF MAN AND PRACTICE SELF-EXAMINATION AND REPENTANCE

After the fall of the first man, Adam, man has become depraved. *His only inclination is to walk in disobedience to God's Word.*

- ❖ **Ecclesiastes 9:3**, “the hearts of the children of man are full of evil, and madness (rebellion) is in their hearts while they live, and after that they go to the dead.”

This struggle with sinful nature still exists within believers.

- Without admitting that the real problem is in the heart and not in others or in situations, we will not witness change in us and grow in godliness.

That's why we must constantly pray like David:

- ❖ **Psalms 139:23-24**, Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

9. BE PERSISTENTLY DILIGENT TO LIVE A GODLY LIFE

In our recent CMAG gathering, we memorized a Scripture from **Proverbs 14:23**, “In all toil there is profit, but mere talk tends only to poverty.”

How does this apply to Godliness? Because to grow in godliness is hard work. Mere talk leads only to spiritual poverty.

- Salvation is ‘free’; sanctification is ‘not free’.
- In salvation ‘Christ paid the price’; in sanctification ‘you have to pay the price’.
- In salvation you have ‘faith’; in sanctification you ‘fight by faith’
- When it comes to salvation, the Scripture says “Believe, Believe, Believe”; when it comes to sanctification, the Scripture says, “Make every effort, make every effort, make every effort.”
 - ❖ **Hebrews 12:14**, Strive (Make every effort) for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.
 - ❖ **1 Timothy 4:7**, “Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness...” (NASB)
 - ❖ **Luke 9:23**, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.”

Note: Lazy people can’t grow in godliness. But all the effort we take to grow in godliness is rooted in the Gospel. WE DO based on WHAT CHRIST HAD DONE FOR US ON THE CROSS.

10. BE COMMITTED TO ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

- ❖ **Hebrews 3:13**, But **exhort one another every day**, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.
 - Open yourself to receive exhortation and correction not just from leaders but from believers too. If you don’t have the humility to receive exhortation, pride ruins you and you will never grow in godliness.
- ❖ **Proverbs 27:17**, Iron sharpens iron, and **one man sharpens another**.

11. CULTIVATE A HEALTHY FEAR OF GOD’S JUDGMENT

- ❖ **Matthew 7:21-23**, “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, **you workers of lawlessness** (evildoers).’
- ❖ **2 Corinthians 5:9-10**, So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For we must **all appear before the judgment seat of Christ**, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

CAUTION: “But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, **having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power.** Avoid such people.” (2 Tim. 3:1-5)

10 FACTORS TO GROW IN GODLINESS

1. KNOW WHO OWNS YOUR LIFE
2. FOCUS ON WHAT CHRIST DID FOR YOU ON THE CROSS
3. RECOGNIZE YOUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST
4. TRUST THE PROMISES OF GOD
5. RECOGNIZE THE INDWELLING POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
6. MEDITATE ON GOD’S WORD AND ABIDE IN CHRIST THROUGH PRAYER
7. UNDERSTAND THE SINFUL NATURE OF MAN AND PRACTICE SELF-EXAMINATION AND REPENTANCE
8. BE PERSISTENTLY DILIGENT TO LIVE A GODLY LIFE
9. BE COMMITTED TO ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST
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