

Quality Faith: Godliness

Today we will look at the fifth quality that we are to add to our faith, godliness.

2 Peter 1:2-6

2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,
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, 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.

5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue
knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance
godliness,

We started with faith, faith in Jesus is the foundation. Before any of these other qualities will profit you anything, you must place your hope and trust in Jesus accepting Him as Lord and Savior.

You add to your faith beginning with virtue, moral excellence, accepting the Word of God as the standard for life. The Word is the ultimate authority, not a man, organization, or government in the world is above it. If something does not line up with the Word, then it is wrong, it does not meet the standard.

Then you add to virtue, knowledge. The knowledge of the Word brings a knowledge of Jesus and the promises of God. But it's not just knowing what the Word says, it is a knowledge of the TRUTH of the Word. Truth dispels the lies in your life and the truth will set you free!

To knowledge you add self-control. Self-control can be summed up in one word.....submission. We need to submit to the Holy Spirit! Self-control is a fruit of the Spirit. It's by the power of the Holy Spirit that we have the ability to exercise self-control. We either sow to the flesh or sow to the Spirit. When we exercise self-control, we yield to the Spirit, we choose the things of eternal significance over our fleshly desires.

Then to self-control, add perseverance, ditch the quitter mentality, fight! Stand for what you believe in....Jesus!

To perseverance.....add godliness!

Godliness is a word that is often used interchangeable with holiness but they are way different.

Holiness is the state of being holy, being different or set apart. We are called to be holy because Jesus is holy. It is something that people view as an impossible, unattainable goal. But God tells us to do it which means not only should we, but it's possible!

Godliness on the other hand is reverence toward God. To show reverence is to respect and esteem highly. To have godliness is to respect and think highly not only of God but also of His character and His laws.

Godliness includes loyalty and obedience.

But shouldn't godliness come before some of these other qualities? faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance?

Shouldn't you think highly of God first? Well first you need to know what Jesus did for you, then you need to know the Word is true and applies to us today, you need to have a knowledge of the truth, you need the self-control that comes by submitting to the Spirit, and you need to know that God wants you to fight for righteousness.

If you don't know those things, you are not ready to add godliness because you don't have a true picture of WHY you should respect the Almighty God.

If you tell a kid to respect a soldier, you can tell them over and over and over but until they actually know WHY they should respect them, it's hard to do. But once you explain that they fight for our freedom, they protect us from other nations who could cause us harm. NOW they can respect them.

Or tell a kid about cops. How many kids know that a cop will take you to jail? But hopefully they also know that cops are supposed to be people that will protect them and people who they can trust. The uniform, the badge, those things don't get respect, it's a knowledge of what the officer can do.

We should respect God because He is God. But we don't, it's hard to until we understand WHY we should esteem Him highly.

2 Peter 1:2-3

2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,
3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness

Peter means that the genuine believer ought not to ask God for something more to become godly, because he already has every spiritual resource to manifest, sustain, and perfect godly living.

Why ask for something that you have already been given? You have been given everything you need to pursue godliness in your life. Esteem God highly, above everything.

Godly living requires reverence to Christ in all aspects of life. Honoring Him in worship and desiring to know Him more. It includes rearranging our priorities, mindsets, and character to line up with that of God.

This word godliness is used 15 times in the new testament by Paul and Peter in their letters addressing churches or church leaders. So godliness is a big deal.

Many have the misconception that if you live a godly life you will miss out on a lot of good things. Nothing could be further from the truth. Godliness enhances the value of our lives.

1 Timothy 4:8-9

8 For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come. 9 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance.

People devote hours of their week, some even hours of their day for bodily exercise. Paul says that profits little. It profits little not because it is not important but because this body is temporary. Why spend hour after hour exercising and trying to get a dying decaying body in shape if you are spiritually out of shape?

Mark 8:36

36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

Having a body that is in shape is cool for this life, but godliness is for this life and all of eternity. If there's only time for one it should be a no brainer!

Godliness is profitable for ALL THINGS today and eternally. Then he says this saying is a faithful one and worthy of all acceptance. You need to accept it today, your relationship with Jesus is more important than your relationship with the gym.....Paul says so!

- Godliness develops a peaceful lifestyle

1 Timothy 2:1-2

2 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

Paul says pray for all men! All men includes all men. Then he specifically includes kings and ALL who are in authority. Why? So that WE may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

You pray for those in authority so that YOU can live a peaceable life. That means undisturbed, not agitated with passion.

Picture someone complaining about the president or their boss or pretty much anyone in authority. It is usually not just a subtle complaint, it's usually very passionate and they sometimes become agitated and agitating (to you).

When you pray for someone it's a lot harder to complain about them. Something about your view of them changes. What I think it is, is the fact that as you pray for them you realize that prayer is what can make them change, and odds are complaining will NEVER help them change!

And when you are worked up about someone in authority it's not godly behavior. You are not showing respect and honor to God.

Romans 13:1-2

1 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.

Pray for those in authority, that is godliness and it not only will make you more peaceful but maybe this world as well as God does a work in that leader's heart!

****Story about the health dept.

- Godliness develops modesty

1 Timothy 2:9-10

9 in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, 10 but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.

So obviously this scripture on the surface seems like it is directed at specific women at a specific point in time but 2 Timothy 3:16 says "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness"

Women were then and are now to dress modestly. Modesty includes purity of mind and purity of manners.

Back then they were told "not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing" but those were things limited to the very wealthy. They were showing up all decked out trying to grab all the attention of the church when the focus was to be on God!

Today it means dress like you are a child of God! You don't dress to show off what ya got. The men that are looking are not the men you want...believe me.

I understand women like to look pretty. It makes them feel good. I'm not saying you can't dress nice and look your best. But do a heart check. If everywhere you go, guys are checking you out, you might want to consider wearing the yoga pants to yoga not the grocery store.....just sayin'

Don't be causing a brother to stumble....I know he has to control his eyes but you do your part! Dress proper for a woman professing godliness. Show that you honor God by dressing honorably. A godly woman's attractiveness is her character.

I am more in love with my wife than I ever have been and you know why? Because she loves Jesus and pursues holiness and godliness.

Men this goes for you as well, no shorty shorts and tight shirts!

When you esteem God highly, you will develop modesty in your life, purity of mind, purity of manners.

- Godliness develops character

1 Timothy 3:16

16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness:

God was manifested in the flesh,
Justified in the Spirit,
Seen by angels,
Preached among the Gentiles,
Believed on in the world,
Received up in glory.

Here is the mystery of godliness, Jesus. Jesus modeled it perfectly. You can see where He honored and respected the Father. He only did and said what He saw and heard from Father God!

Godliness is conduct consistent with the character of Jesus!

It's not always easy to live godly lives but we can simplify the decisions we make by following Christ's example.

Godliness is us putting God in His proper place....on the throne, exalted high, revered! That's easy to do when you realize this plan that He had to save you. That Jesus came to this earth and died in your place for your sins and then He rose again, pummeled the devil and is sitting on the throne in heaven. Thank you Lord!

- Godliness develops contentment

1 Timothy 6:6-11

6 Now godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. 9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Godliness itself is a good thing but with contentment it is great gain! Great gain means something big that you acquire. Contentment isn't something you just have, its something great that you can acquire.... start with godliness.

Part of what I talked about last week was how hung up people get on personal gain. Buying stuff, making money, etc. I already shared this once but....

Mark 8:36

36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

It's true that you can't take all the stuff you have with you at the end of this life. I'd rather have nothing and go to heaven with nothing than have everything I want on this earth and then go to hell with nothing.

Now it's not money that is evil. It's the love of money that is the root of all kinds of evil.

When your goal in life is to be the richest, most popular, most powerful person you will never be happy. Once you get one thing you will just want something else. I've seen people desire management positions, they get one and then they are not happy, then they want something else.

I've seen people that wanted a certain salary, then they get it and they just move the line up to a higher number, they aren't any happier that they make more, same attitude, same behavior, same unhappiness, they just want more.

Try contentment for a change, be happy with the job you have, be happy that you have a car that runs, be happy that your actual needs are met.

Then maybe when you show contentment, which in doing so you honor God by not being greedy and envious, maybe you will see God's blessing and it just might increase!

We must pursue godliness. We must ask Jesus to show us how to really esteem Him highly, how to really respect Him and honor Him. GENUINE godliness.....It's important!

We see in 2 Timothy where Paul lists a bunch of attributes characterizing people who deceive others leading them astray. It's basically a list of ungodliness and Paul says it will come in the last days, meaning the time since the first coming of Jesus.....that is now!

2 Timothy 3:5

5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

These people will have a likeness or resemblance of godliness. They will look like they revere and honor God. BUT, you will know them....because they will deny its power....what's power?

Godliness' power. They will deny it!

What power is that? God Himself is the power of godliness

Charles Spurgeon said this:

Godliness is the power which brings a man to God and binds him to Him. Godliness is that which creates repentance towards God and faith in Him. Godliness is the result of a great change of heart in reference to God and His Character. Godliness looks towards God and mourns its distance from Him. godliness hastens to draw near and rests not till it is at home with God.

Godliness makes a man like God. Godliness leads a man to love God and to serve God. It brings the fear of God before his eyes and the love of God into his heart. Godliness leads to consecration, to sanctification, to concentration. The godly man seeks first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and expects other things to be added to him. Godliness makes a man commune with God and gives him a partnership with God in His glorious designs. And so it prepares him to dwell with God forever.

It is possible to put on an outward show but true godliness affects the real you.

If you have what resembles godliness but deny the Spirit that is the power, you are in dead religion! You can try and carry on without it.

Paul said in Romans 8:11 the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you!

Not if you deny it.....

This power is the same exact power that Jesus refers to the baptism of the Holy Spirit!

Acts 1:8

8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

The same word power is used in both scriptures it is dynamis (du-na-mes).

- inherent power, power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature, or which a person or thing exerts and puts forth
- power for performing miracles
- moral power and excellence of soul
- the power and influence which belong to riches and wealth
- power and resources arising from numbers
- power consisting in or resting upon armies, forces, hosts

You see that even in Jesus' own life on this earth. The Holy Spirit comes upon Him and brings forth a ministry of power!

That's the purpose of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit....to empower the church for ministry!

Yet people sit in church and deny the power of the Spirit, Paul says from such people turn away!

There are churches that deny the power of the Spirit, and the people there should turn away!
Where there is no Spirit there is no power (at least no godly power)

Today I want to give every person in this place the opportunity to receive this power. It's not anything I can give you, but I believe God can and I want to pray for you that He will!