**7 Additions to Faith**

**Add Godliness**

**2 Peter 1:1-10**

**Introduction**

Many Christians think that godliness is something they could never attain. In fact, most believers would be very hesitant to say that they were a very godly person.

However, those same believers would be greatly offended if you were to suggest to them they were an un-godly person. You’re either one or the other.

Today, we will try to understand what godliness actually is and why Peter says it is important for it to be added to your faith life. So let’s begin once again by reading 2 Peter 1:1-10. “Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: 2Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3as 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, 4by 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.

**Fruitful Growth in the Faith**

5But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8For if these things are yours and abound, *you* will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. 10Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; 11for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

When you read where ‘godliness’ falls in the order of Peter’s seven additions to your faith, at first glance, it just doesn’t seem to be in the right place. You would think that godliness would come first or maybe last in the development process but instead it comes right in the middle. Peter says we are to add to our faith, virtue then knowledge, then temperance then patience and then godliness. Each time we add one of these Christian virtues we are taking another giant step towards Christian maturity.

The word godly or godliness appears only a few times in the New Testament. But how many of you know the whole Bible is a book about godliness. When Paul wanted to describe the essence of the Christian life in one brief paragraph, he focuses on godliness. He tells young Titus that God’s grace teaches us to say no to ungodliness and worldly lusts and live self-controlled and godly lives. (Titus 2:11-13) When Paul describes himself as an Apostle of Jesus Christ in Titus 1:1, he says that he was called to further the faith of God’s elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness. He especially emphasizes godliness in his first letter to Timothy. He says that we are to pray for those in authority that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. He says we are to train ourselves to be godly, and to pursue godliness in an unrelenting and persevering effort.

The Bible says that godliness with contentment is great gain. In Chapter 3 Peter uses one of the most momentous events of godly lives. He describes the day of the Lord known as the second coming of Christ and says in light of Christ’s coming we need to live holy and godly lives. Godliness is not an option it’s a necessity. It’s not a spiritual luxury it’s a spiritual essential. Peter says that God has given each of us everything that we need for life and godliness. We all have the same opportunity to develop our faith and grow in Christ.

Godliness is to have that restored God likeness. To be godly we need to be truly committed to living a holy life. Godliness requires a holy reverence. Have you ever heard someone say, “He is a very devout Christian!” or “She is a truly dedicated believer”

Godliness is devotion in action. Godliness infuses the presence of the Holy Spirit into the situations of life around us. Godly people have the ability to bring a sense of the presence of God into every situation or conversation. Godly persons have energy. They are knowledgeable in the things of God and are able to maintain self-control. They are understanding and patient but more than that there is just something about them that brings a sense of correctness and rightness to any situation. (Am I communicating?)

The Bible gives us a few illustration of godliness. In Genesis Chapter 5 the bible talks about a man named Enoch. He was the father of Methuselah. Methuselah lived longer than any other man that we know of. In fact his name means 1000 years. (He actually lived 969 years) But in three verses we get a summary of the life of Enoch. Moses describes him as a man who ‘walked with God’ In the book of the Hebrews, Enoch is listed in the Faith’s Hall of Fame as one who pleased God.

What a great commentary of on a person’s life. He walked with God and He pleased God! It appears that God was at the center of Enoch’s life. He didn’t go anywhere or do anything without first consulting with the Lord. In fact, He was so devout and reverent that he discussed everything with God before charting his course or making a decision. And the bible says that He did this so consistently and accurately that one day while Enoch was walking with God, God took him.

Enoch gives us two simple keys to developing godliness: 1) Walk with God and 2) Please God. That’s pretty simple. Godliness is demonstrating an attitude that is positive about God and what he can do. Positive enough to be reflected in your actions and behaviors. A lot of people talk the talk but don’t walk the walk.

Godliness leads to compelling action. It’s a passion to know God better and a devotion that moves us to do something we know pleases God. We’re talking about the kind of consuming fire that burns within our spirit and compels us to express what we feel in tangible ways.

Godliness requires us to be consistent and predictable in our character and conduct.

It’s not just saying the right thing at the right time. It’s doing the right thing at the right time. The Christian life of some is more like an experiment than a relationship. Godly people don’t make demands or require God to do things for them; they count it a privilege to include Christ and feel honored that God is involved in their life. A godly person does not exclude God from anything. God is at the very center of their thoughts and planning. Even the ordinary routine duties of life are done with the awareness of God’s presence. Paul says to the Corinthians that whether we eat or drink or whatever we do, we do it all in the name of the Lord.

Godly character is fruit of Godly devotion. Sadly, for many believers, their actions toward God are only a matter of convenience. Too many Christians only read their bible when they feel like it; go to church when they feel like it; pray when the feel like it; not to mention, witness their faith when they feel like it. They haven’t added that inner compelling conviction that requires them to be consistent.

I think it’s safe to say that some people have more conviction about going to work every day or going bowling on Thursday nights or making sure they get their cup of morning coffee, than they have about meeting with God each day. Yet our degree of devoutness or lack thereof affects every aspect of our spiritual lives. It’s true, you can be very talented and active and energetic and still not be godly. You can be devoted to a vision, or a person or a job or anything really, but that’s not the same thing as being devoted to God.

Godliness is a yearning; a passion to know God and spend time with him. The bible says that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. That kind of reverence for God is at the heart of godliness. The fruit of godliness is adoration and love and reverence and honor. Godliness recognizes and respects the majesty and holiness and glory of the Almighty God.

The Seraphim’s mentioned in Isaiah Chapter 6 demonstrate this awe by covering their faces with two of their wings whenever they are in the presence of God. Isaiah himself dropped to his knees and covered his face when he realized he was in the presence of God. John the beloved disciple, in Revelation Chapter One, saw Jesus standing in his majesty and fell at his feet as though dead. It’s impossible to experience godliness without it causing you to reverence and worship God. In order for us to truly appreciate the love and mercy and grace of God, we must acknowledge His majesty and holiness and glory.

The same writer who tells us that we are to have confidence to enter into the most Holy Place also tells us that we should worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, “for our God is a consuming fire.” (Hebrews 10:19; 12:28-29) When Paul tells us that the Holy Spirit is dwelling in our hearts causing us to cry “Abba Father”, he also reminds us that this same God lives in “unapproachable light”. (Romans 8:15; 1 Timothy 6:16)

Even when we sing the Song of Moses with all the redeemed of all ages it will be a refrain of devotion and reverence for the glory of the Almighty.

“Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty

Just and true are your ways, O King of the ages.”

“Who will not fear you, O Lord and bring glory to your name?

For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.” That is the song of the godly.

It is the same reverence that the children of Israel demonstrated when they saw the great power of God displayed against the Egyptians in Exodus Chapter 14. The Bible says, “The people feared the Lord and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.” And they sang this song of worship found in Exodus 15:11. “Who among the gods is like you, O Lord, who is like you… majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?” I think whenever we recognize the presence of God at work in our life; it puts a song in our heart. And it produces a longing for more of God in our life. David wrote in Psalm 42: “As the deer pants for the streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When will I go and meet with my God?” What could be more intense than a hunted deer’s thirst for water? David said, “That’s how intense my desire for God is.”

In Psalm 27:4 he writes, “One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.” In Psalm 63:1 he says, “Earnestly I seek you, my soul thirsts for you and my body longs for you.” The Apostle Paul had this same desire. He writes in Phil 3:10 “Oh, I want to know Christ. For I have determined that my purpose is that I may know him…that I may become deeply and intimately acquainted with him.” “That I might know him in the fellowship of his sufferings as well as the power of his resurrection.” That is the heartbeat of godliness.

The Greek term for godliness means to be devout or piety. Vines New Testament dictionary calls it “that piety which is characterized by a Godward attitude that does which is well-pleasing to God.” Micah 6:8 describes it this way, “He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

To do that we must first recognize and acknowledge God in the most profound sense.

1. **Recognition of God**

The farther mankind drifts from God, the harder it becomes for us to recognize Him. Adam and Eve walked and talked with God. But by the time God come down again to walk and talk with man in the person of Jesus Christ, mankind crucifies him. 2000 years later mankind is now incredibly ignorant of the presence of God.

The alienation of makes the likeness of God in mankind almost unrecognizable. The Apostle John describes Christ’s entrance into this world in John 1:10 like this, “He was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him.” Our sins have so separated us from God presence that it really takes an epiphany, a divine revelation of God to bridge the gap of our alienation from Him.

From the very beginning of time, God has been present in the world, creating man, enlightening him, inspiring him, appealing to him. John writes, “In Him was life and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.” John 1:4-5 God is the very source of our life, and yet we do not understand it!

The first element to becoming a godly person is to recognize that God is the Creator, the Originator, the Sustainer, the Enlightener of life itself. Psalm 100:3 says, “Know that the Lord Himself is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture.” Jesus said in John 14:6, “I am the way the truth and the life! No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

1. **Receptiveness to God**

It’s one thing to recognize God but quite another to be aware of His presence and receptive to Him. To say that God is everywhere is very different from sensing that He is right here with us. Yet that is what the Bible teaches, Immanuel, God with us!

Jacob was aware of God and recognized God’s ability to impact our world. It was that recognition that made him to want to steal the birthright and spiritual blessing from his brother Esau. And it was the lack of that recognition in his brother Esau that caused him to sell his birthright to Jacob. However, that recognition alone did not make Jacob a godly man. Jacob continued to strive and manipulate situations and circumstances in order to achieve his goals. And he was successful. But for all his achievement he was still empty and unfulfilled until he finally responded to God’s call. At a place called Penial, Jacob wrestled with the Angel of God and uttered the famous words, “I’ll not let you go till you bless me.” It was there that Jacob’s name was changed to Israel and from that time on Jacob became receptive to God’s plan and guidance. It was there that Jacob realized that God was present in that place. It was there that Jacob became receptive to God’s will and direction for his life.

Wherever you are, whatever you may be facing, godliness is responding the way God would. Godliness is receptiveness to God’s word and God’s ways. Godliness is an awareness that God is right there with you, wherever you are, whatever you face.

1. **Devotion to God**

Godliness is also a responsive heart that desires to honor God. It is not enough just to recognize God’s presence or to be aware that he is here with us; godliness is a devotion to making God known in this world. Satan recognizes God and is aware of His presence, but he is devoted to the destruction of God’s creation not to making Him known. Jesus said in John 4:34, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me!”

As a boy, the prophet Samuel did not immediately recognize the voice of God. When God called for him, he mistakenly thought it was the priest, Eli who was calling. Eli, however, recognized that God was calling Samuel and instructed him in 1 Samuel 3:9 by saying, “Go lie down, and it shall be if He calls you that you shall say, “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening!” Those words express the most important element of godliness; a devotion to the Lord and a readiness to do what he asks of you.

Do you listen for the voice of God? Have you heard him calling you?

Do you have a desire to make Christ known to your world?

**Conclusion**

Godliness is a compelling virtue. It is a thirst that can only be quenched with God himself. It is a devotion that moves us to action. Jeremiah said, “It is a fire shut up within my bones.” Jesus said, “I must do the works of him that sent me.” Paul said, “Woe is me if I preach not the gospel.” Godliness is a powerful and motivating force that pushes us forward through the details of daily routine.

But godliness also gives us a sense of expectancy and anticipation of enjoying the fellowship of God. Godliness is that deep yearning and desire to experience God and be more like God. Godly people know what a joy it is just to be in the presence of such a powerful and majestic God.

But God has made it known through Christ that He wants to fellowship with us too!

Right from the beginning he came down in the cool of the day and walked in the garden with Adam and Eve. God’s desire has never changed. God always has time for you! We seem to be the ones who never have time for God. Jesus came to provide an open door for restored fellowship with God.

In Chapter 21 of the book of the Revelation, John sees the New Jerusalem coming down from heaven and hears the voice of God say: “Now the dwelling of God is with me and he will live with them.” Jesus is inviting you to fellowship with him. He wants you to get to know him.

In Revelation 3:20 Jesus says, “Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and will fellowship with him and he with me, ”All you have to do is open the door of your heart! Godliness is acknowledging God’s love for you in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the Cross and saying YES to his invitation to be like Him.

Godliness is an unwavering devotion to God. It is demonstrated by consistent attitude and action. Peter says, God has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness. Therefore, add to your faith, godliness and continue to grow in Christ.