

## 7 Additions to Faith

### Add Godliness

#### 2 Peter 1:1-10

### Introduction

Some Christians think godliness is something they could never attain. Many 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 they were ungodly persons. But the truth is, you are either one or the other. Today, we will try to understand what godliness is and why Peter says it is vital to add it to your faith life.

Our text is 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: Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 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, 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. But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, *you will be* neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;" (2 Peter 1:1-10 NKJV)

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

The word godly or godliness appears only a few times in the New Testament. When Paul wanted to describe the essence of the Christian life in one brief paragraph, he focused 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)

"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ," (Titus 2:11-13 NKJV)

Paul describes himself as an Apostle of Jesus Christ in Titus 1:1 and says that Christ called him to develop the faith of God's people 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. We are to train ourselves to be godly and pursue godliness in an unrelenting and persevering effort. Paul tells Timothy, "Now godliness with contentment is great gain." (1 Timothy 6:6 NKJV)

In Chapter 3, Peter describes one of the most important events of prophecy: The Second Coming of Christ. Peter says in light of Christ's coming, we need to live holy and godly lives.

Godliness is not an option for believers; it's a necessity. It's not a spiritual luxury; it's a spiritual essential. Peter says God has given us everything we need for life and godliness. We all have the same opportunity to develop our faith and grow in Christ.

Godliness is to be restored to God-likeness. As followers of Christ, we must be genuinely 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 devoted believer" Godliness is devotion in action. Godliness causes the presence of the Holy Spirit to impact the situations of life around us.

Godly people can bring a sense of the presence of God into every situation or conversation. Godly people have Holy Spirit energy and discernment. They know and understand the things of God and can maintain self-control in all situations. They have understanding and perseverance, but more than that, something about them brings a sense of correctness and rightness to any situation.

The Bible gives us a few illustrations 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. In fact, his name means 1000 years.

The Bible very powerfully summarizes the whole life of Enoch in three verses. 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 a man who pleased God. That is a great commentary on a person's life. "Enoch 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. He was so devout and reverent that he discussed everything with God before charting his course or making a decision. 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. Godliness is demonstrating an attitude that is positive about God and what he can do. It is something that is reflected in all your actions and behaviors.

Godliness leads to compelling action and a passion to know God more deeply. It is a devotion that moves us to do something we know pleases God. It is a consuming fire that burns within our spirit and compels us to express our devotion to God in tangible ways. Godliness makes us 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 serve Christ and feel honored that God is directing their life. A godly person does not exclude God from anything. In fact, God is at the very center of their thoughts and planning. Even 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 the fruit of Godly devotion. Sadly, the actions and behaviors of some believers toward God are only a matter of convenience. A life that's too busy with the things of this world will tempt you to only read your Bible when you feel like it, go to church when it's convenient; or pray when you're in trouble; not to mention how hard it is to share your faith when it's inactive. Godly believers have added that compelling inner conviction of the Holy Spirit that requires them to be consistent.

Your degree of devotion to Christ affects every aspect of your life. You can be very talented, intelligent, and active in service yet still not be godly. Godliness is a yearning and passion to know God and spend time with him. That kind of reverence for God is at the heart of godliness.

Godliness recognizes and respects the holiness of God. The Seraphim 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.

Godliness causes you to reverence and worship God. Whenever we recognize the presence of God at work, it puts a song in our hearts and 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?"

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. 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 pious. 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 says, "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.

## **I. Recognition of God**

The farther humanity 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 came down again to walk and talk with man in the person of Jesus Christ, mankind crucified him. Two thousand years later, our world is now incredibly ignorant of the presence of God.

The Apostle John describes Christ's entrance into this world in John 1:10 as, " He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him." ([John 1:10 NKJV](#))

Our sins have separated us from God's presence that it takes an epiphany, a divine revelation of God, to bridge the gap of our alienation from Him. John writes, " In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it." ([John 1:4-5 NKJV](#))

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, and the Enlightener of life itself. Psalm 100:3 says, " Know that the LORD, He *is* God; *It is* He *who* has made us, and not we ourselves; *We are* His people and the sheep of His pasture." ([Psalms 100:3 NKJV](#))

Jesus said in John 14:6, " Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." ([John 14:6 NKJV](#))

## **II. Receptiveness to God**

It's one thing to recognize God but quite another to be aware of His presence and be receptive to Him. Saying God is everywhere is very different from sensing He is right here with us.

Jacob was aware of God and recognized God's ability to impact his world. In fact, that recognition made him want to steal the birthright and spiritual blessing from his brother Esau. The lack of that recognition in his brother Esau 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 to achieve his goals. And he was successful. But he remained empty and unfulfilled for all his achievements 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." There, God changed Jacob's name to Israel, and from that time on, Jacob became receptive to God's plan. It was there that Jacob realized that God was present in that place. There, Jacob became receptive to God's will and direction for his life. Wherever you are, whatever you may face, godliness responds the way God would.

Godliness is receptiveness to God's word and God's ways. Godliness is an awareness that God is always right there with you, wherever you are, whatever you face.

### **III. 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 destroying God's creation, not to making Him known. Jesus said in John 4:34, "Jesus said to them, **"My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work."** (John 4:34 NKJV)

As a boy, the prophet Samuel did not immediately recognize the voice of God. When God called for him, he mistakenly thought it was Eli, the priest. 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 essential 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 our 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 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!

From the beginning, God 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 Revelation, John sees the New Jerusalem coming down from heaven and says, "And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God, Himself will be with them *and be* their God." ([Revelation 21:3 NKJV](#))

Jesus is inviting us 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 to him and dine with him, and he with Me.**" ([Revelation 3:20 NKJV](#))

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. A consistent attitude and action demonstrate it.

Peter says God has given us everything that pertains to life and godliness. Therefore, add to your faith, godliness and continue to grow in Christ.