



# From Faith to Love

## #6 Godliness

1 Timothy 4:6-10; 6:3-6

# Where were we?

- ▶ God has blessed us with **everything** that we need (2 Peter 1:3) (life and godliness)
- ▶ We now have a **new life** in Christ (new divine nature) (v.4)
- ▶ We are called to grow toward Christ in **maturity (love)**—the greatest commandment
- ▶ God has laid a roadmap of growth for us in 2 Peter—8 steps from **faith** to **love**
- ▶ It is all about **relationship**



**TAKE YOUR  
NEXT STEP**



➤ Faith (**trusting** Jesus)

- God has found us, we can now choose to follow Him by faith (ill: jungle) Heb. 11:1, 6
- We need to acknowledge God as God
- And we need to surrender to His will

➤ Goodness (**admiring** Jesus)

- It is God's excellence (goodness/virtues), not ours (2 Peter 1:3; 1 Peter 2:9)
- We are amazed by Him, daily experiencing His goodness (excellence, attributes)
- Behold God's **beauty** (Psalm 27:4) and **think** on it (Phil 4:8)
- Without faith we cannot see God's goodness (Psalm 27:13)

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# Step #3 Knowing Jesus



knowing God

- ▶ Knowledge (**knowing** Jesus)
  - ▶ The more we **know** God, the more we **appreciate** Him, and the more we **trust** in Him
  - ▶ There is a danger of complacency when we think we've already known **enough** about God (ill. Idol)
  - ▶ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge (Prov. 9:10; 3:5-6)
  - ▶ We must commit to **read** and **study** the Bible
  - ▶ We also should objectively learn about God and ourselves **through others** (i.e. reading)
  - ▶ Col. 2:3; Phil. 3:7-14; Prov. 9:10

# Step #4 Self-control

- Self-Control (**imitating** Jesus)
- As we acknowledge who God is and who we are, we want to be **more like Him** (Eph. 4-5)
- It is God who **motivating** us to be more like Him
- This means to **put off** our old self (flesh) and to **put on** the new nature in Christ
- 1. **Self-aware** of who we are (1 Thes. 5:6-8)
- 2. **Determine** to put our old self to **DEATH** (Col. 3:5-8)
- 3. Have a **action plan** (Rom. 12:2; 1 Peter 1:13)
- 4. Put on (practice) new **godly habits** in **replacement** of the old (Eph. 4:22-24)
- Note: **failure** is always a possibility. Nevertheless, God's **mercy** is much greater 😊



# Step #5 Steadfastness



- ▶ We are called to stick it out and stay on course in **Following Jesus**—in both good and bad times
- ▶ God is our **hope** and **joy** in trouble times (James 1:2-4; Col. 1:9; Rom. 5:3-4, 8:28)
- ▶ We need to stay focus on Jesus (John 10:14-16) since we must stand firm in Him (Eph. 6:10-11) and on the foundation of the pervious 4 steps

**Trusting** Jesus →→ **Admiring** Jesus →→ **Knowing** Jesus →→ **Imitating** Jesus →→ **Following** Jesus in *good and bad times*

- ▶ Now it comes to the final 3 **PRACTICAL** steps...



# Godliness



- ▶ 15 times in NT, translated as *godly*, *godliness*, *holiness* (KJV), *piety* (ESV) (in Acts 3:12)
- ▶ Root meaning—pious, reverent, devote
- ▶ It is similar to the concept of the **fear of the Lord** on the OT (Prov. 9:10) and to **put God first** (Matt. 6:32)
- ▶ Godliness—***putting on Jesus*** daily with our **new behaviors** (Prov. 3:5-9 practically honor God)



# Godly Exercises

- (Titus 1:1) as we **practice** the truth (knowledge), we are adding godly behaviors in our lives (see Phil. 4:8-9)
- (1 Timothy 4:6-10) “training” **exercise**
- Just as daily exercise of the body, God wants us to have spiritual exercises to grow in godliness—new spiritual **habits**
- But who wants to practice new habits? (ill: Kevin)
- Does your spiritual practice have a **direction**?

- ▶ “...predestined to be **conformed** to the image of His Son” (Rom. 8:29)
- ▶ “...we shall be **like** Him...” (1 John 3:2)
- ▶ That is our direction!! We shall be like Jesus on that day...imagine that!!
- ▶ Until that day He intended us to **grow toward Christlikeness** (Eph. 5:1 *be imitators of God*, also see 1 Peter 2:9)
- ▶ This is our choice to “walk” in the **purpose** of our creation. But we must make that choice



# Godliness from Steadfastness

- ▶ *More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces **endurance**, and endurance produces **character**, and character produces **hope** (Romans 5:3-4)*
- ▶ *For the moment all **discipline** seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it **yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness** to those who have been trained by it. (Heb. 12:11)*



# Godliness in daily lives



- ▶ What does it all means?
- ▶ First we acknowledge that **we need Jesus** (faith), then we **set our eyes** on His characters (goodness), then we **understand** and **experience** His goodness (knowledge), we set on a journey to walk with Jesus and walk toward Him
- ▶ However, there must be **determination** (self-control) and **endurance** (steadfastness) in this process to be more like Jesus. Only then **the fruit of the Spirit** will grow in our lives

# What are some of these disciplines?



- ▶ (Prayer) Do you take time to pour out to God daily?
- ▶ (Meditation) How often do you think on God's word?
- ▶ (Simplicity) Do you really need that? Are you contented with what God has already blessed you?
- ▶ (Study) What are you learning about God? What else are you learning these days?
- ▶ (Worship) Do you set aside time to honor God and to praise Him for who He is?
- ▶ (Service) Are you showing grace to others regularly?
- ▶ (Giving) Are you sharing God's blessing with others?

# It is only one of the steps



1. Godliness **without knowledge** (1 Tim. 6:3-5) Such people mistakenly think they know Jesus, and pursue God wrongly with worldly knowledge (1:3-4, 4:1-3, 4:7-8, 6:20; Titus 3:8-9)
  2. Godliness **without faith** (2 Tim. 3:1-7) This is even worse, since there is no denying of self, and dependent on Jesus. What's left is but piety with pride, and no relationship with God (see Acts 3:12)
- Test!! True godliness has a signature of humility with contentment (1 Tim. 6:3-6)

# Conclusion



- ▶ Faith—trusting Jesus (where relationship begins)
- ▶ Goodness—admiring Jesus (set your eyes on Him)
- ▶ Knowledge—knowing Jesus (experience Him daily)
- ▶ Self-control—imitating Jesus (surrender to Him)
- ▶ Steadfastness—following Jesus (endure with Him)
- ▶ Godliness—put on Jesus (spiritual exercise)

***Trust** in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own **understanding**. In all your ways **acknowledge** him, and he will make straight your paths. (Prov. 3:5-6)*

# Conclusion



- ▶ Godliness—spiritual exercises (disciplines & habits)
- ▶ What is the **one new habit** that you need in order to acknowledge Jesus daily, and have a deeper relationship with Him? (in which you are currently not doing)

*...**train yourself for godliness**; for while **bodily training** is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.*

(1 Timothy 4:7-8)