



India
Christian
Fellowship
San Diego

Power of Godliness

Paul says about last days in 2 Tim 3: 5 ⁵having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.

What is godliness?

- Reverence for or devotion to God, producing a practical awareness of God in every aspect of life.
- The attitude toward God that results in actions that is pleasing to God.
- This personal attitude we call the devotion to god. God is at the center of his thoughts.

3 Essential elements in Godliness.

1. The Fear of God ...

The fear of god is the soul of godliness.

Many people think that the fear of god is an OT concept.

One of the blessings of the new covenant is the implanting in believer's hearts the fear of the Lord.

JEREMIAH.32.40 ⁴⁰ I will make an everlasting covenant with them: I will never stop doing good to them, and I will inspire them to fear me, so that they will never turn away from me.

Acts 9.31 ³¹ Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord.

Paul and Peter both use the fear of the lord as a motive to holy living.

Philippians 2.12, ¹² Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

1Peter 1:17 ¹⁷ Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear.

Isaiah says about Jesus he will delight in the fear of the lord.

Isaiah 11.3 ¹ A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD - and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears;

The bible use fear of god in two distinct ways.

- **That of anxious terror**, this produced by the impending judgment up on sin.
- When Adam sinned, he hid from god because he was afraid.

And **that of reverence and awe.**

- For the child of god the primary meaning of the fear of god is honor, reverence and awe.
- It focuses up on the majesty, holiness and transcendent glory of god.

The fear of god is the alphabet of our spiritual life.

It is impossible to be devoted to god if our heart is not filled with the fear of god.

The reverent, godly Christian sees god first in his transcendent glory, majesty and holiness before seeing Him in love, mercy and grace.

None of the godly men in bible treated god casually.

The consequence of dealing god with irreverence.

Leviticus .10 : 1-3 Nadab & Abihu.

Leviticus 9;24 – the fire of the Lord consumed the offering .

10.2 – the fire of the Lord consumed the offerers .

- Respect god's house
- Love god's word
- Obey god's voice

The balance of scripture.

Hebrews 4:16 - ¹⁴Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens,^[e] Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—

yet was without sin. ¹⁶Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Hebrews 12:28 ²⁸Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, ²⁹for our "God is a consuming fire."

Romans 8:15 ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship.^[g] And by him we cry, "Abba,^[h] Father." ¹⁶The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

1Tim.6:16 - the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.

Even the redeemed in heaven fear the Lord.

Revelation 15:3-4. ¹I saw in heaven another great and marvelous sign: seven angels with the seven last plagues—last, because with them God's wrath is completed. ²And I saw what looked like a sea of glass mixed with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and over the number of his name. They held harps given them by God ³and sang the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb:

"Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty.

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

⁴Who 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."

We should magnify the love of god, but although we revel in his love and mercy, we must never lose sight of his majesty and his holiness.

Three essential elements of the fear of god.

1. Correct concept of the character of God.
2. A constant sense of the presence of God.
3. A regular awareness of our obligation to God.

If we truly fear god, we will obey Him.

2. Grippled by god's love.

Only the god fearing Christian can truly appreciate the love of god.

We see the infinite gulf between a holy god and a sinful creature and that love that bridged through the death of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The supreme demonstration of the love of god is on the cross.

Apostle John says **god is love 1 John 4:8**

He explains the statement by saying

1 John 4:9-10 ⁹This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son^[b] into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for^[c] our sins.

The love of god has no meaning apart from Calvary and Calvary has no meaning apart from the wrath of god.

It is not enough for me to believe that god loved the world..

I must grip by it .

Romans 8: 31-39 ³¹What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶As it is written:

"For your sake we face death all day long;

we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."^[d] ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,^[e] neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This devotion is active – this devotion helps us to obey Him.

When we realize this holy, righteous god has loved a wretched sinner like me. The only response is to love him.

Mark 10:17-22.

"And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none

good but one, that is, God. Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother. And he answered and said unto him, All these have I observed from my youth. Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, **One thing thou lackest:** go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up thy cross, and follow me. And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

Here we read of a wealthy young man who came to the Lord with much eagerness but went away disappointed.

He was an exceptional young man,

- For he came running to the Lord, thus showing his eagerness to know the truth,
- In addition, he kneeled, so displaying his humility.
- Moreover his question revealed an interest in the things of eternity that is rare among young people, and perhaps rarest of all among the youthful rich.
- Further, when Jesus spoke to him of the commandments, he could reply without hesitation that he had kept them all.
- He had never committed adultery, never killed, never stolen, never borne false witness, never defrauded anyone and never dishonored his father or mother.
- Since Jesus did not challenge his statement, we must agree that he was a remarkable young man, honest, upright, moral, sincere and keen.

- But Jesus then put His finger on the one thing still lacking in his life, a thing so important that without it all his other qualifications were of no avail.
- He was unwilling, because of attachment to material possessions, to take up the cross and to follow the Lord.

Our awareness of god's love for us must also be constantly growing.

3. Thirst for God.

True godliness engages our affections and awakens within us a desire to enjoy God's presence and fellowship.

The realization of God's holiness will help us to fear Him and His love towards us will help us to devote ourselves to Him and passionately love Him.

Psalms 42.1 ^[b] *As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. ² My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?*

Psalms 27.4 ⁴ 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.

Psalms 63:1 ¹ O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

David not only contemplate the beauty of god's attributes ; he sought God Himself.

Paul in Phil.3:10 Amplified Bible : ¹⁰*[For my determined purpose is] that I may know Him [that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly], and that I may in that same way come to know the power outflowing from His resurrection [^bwhich it exerts over believers], and that I may so share His sufferings as to be continually transformed [in spirit into His likeness even] to His death, [in the hope]*

This is the heart beat of a godly person. As he contemplates god in the awesomeness of His infinite majesty, power and holiness and then he dwells up on the riches of his mercy and grace poured out at Calvary , his heart is captivated the one who could love him so. He is satisfied with god alone, but he is never satisfied with his present experience of God. He always yearns more.

David and Paul yearned to experience more fellowship with the living God.

The bible , from the beginning pages to the end , indicates that this god's plan for us.

Genesis 3 god walking in the garden and calling Adam that He might have fellowship with him.

Revelation 21 :3 *Now the dwelling of god is with men, and he will live with them....*

When we fear god and love him with all our being and longing for him and thinking of him all the time, the power of god will flow through us.

This is the secret of Godly living.

Acts 4: 13... *They had been with Jesus*

The secret of power is being with Jesus.