

# GODLINESS

## *Have You Been Exercising It?*

### *1 Timothy 6:3-12*

How often do you hear fellow Christians talk about godliness? It is not uncommon to hear believers talk about being more faithful, more loving, more active in the local assembly, etc. Yet, how many would say, “My heart’s deep desire is to be more godly”? Why is it that God’s people have so little interest in godliness, something which God’s Word tells us to actively pursue and chase after as a hunter would pursue his prey (*1 Tim. 6:11*)?

The word “godliness” is found often in Paul’s letters to Timothy and Titus, and also in Peter’s second epistle. It comes from a Greek root which means “to shrink from something because of intense fear or awe.” The adjective means “revered, worthy of reverence, august,” and was a Greek translation of the Latin “Augustus,” the designation of the Roman emperor to whom all reverence and respect was supposed to be directed. Thus the term “godly” means “God-fearing, fully of holy and devout reverence,” and the noun “godliness” refers to reverent, God-fearing conduct.

The godly man fears God, believing that God is so great that to dishonor or disobey Him is unthinkable. Godliness and the fear of the Lord are twin virtues. The man who feared God in the Old Testament corresponds very closely to the godly man of the New Testament. He is the man who greatly fears doing anything that would displease the Lord. He manifests a God-consciousness and a God-dependence. Bodily exercise profits little (for a little time), but godliness profits the believer not only in this life, but it provides dividends for all eternity (*1 Tim. 4:8*).

How we need to exercise ourselves unto godliness, making it a key priority in our quest for Christ-likeness and growth in holiness. Indeed, God’s grace teaches us to say no to ungodliness and to live godly (*Titus 2:11-12*)!

~George Zeller: [www.middletonbiblechurch.org](http://www.middletonbiblechurch.org)



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