

## TRAIN YOURSELF TO BE GODLY

1 Tim. 4:7-8: “But reject profane and old wives’ fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness. For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.”

### INTRODUCTION - PRESSING ON THE UPWARD WAY.

#### A. PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY.

##### COST OF COMMITMENT:

1. Psalm 63:1: “O God, You are my God; early will I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water.”
2. Jer. 29:13: “And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.”
3. Phil. 3:12-14: “Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”
4. Heb. 12:14: “Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.”
5. 2 Pet. 1:5-7: “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.”

#### B. CONSTANT EXPOSURE TO OUR GOD’S WORD.

1. Titus 1:1: “Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God’s elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which is according to godliness.”
2. Isa. 57:15: “For thus says the High and Lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: ‘I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.’”

3. Isa. 66:1-2: “Thus says the Lord: ‘Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest? For all those things My hand has made, and all those things exist,’ says the Lord. ‘But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.’”

(a) Hearing - Reading - Study - Memorizing - Meditating.

Ps. 1:2: “But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night.”

Josh. 1:8: “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”

4. Ezek. 33:31: “So they come to you as people do, they sit before you as My people, and they hear your words, but they do not do them; for with their mouth they show much love, but their hearts pursue their own gain.”
5. Acts 17:11: “These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.”
6. Exodus 33:11: “So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle.”
7. Prov. 2:1-5: “My son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you, so that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding, if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.”

(a) Principles involved:

- (i) Teachability: Ps. 86:11: “Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in Your truth; unite my heart to fear Your name.”

- (ii) Intent to Obey.
  - (iii) Mental Discipline.
  - (iv) Prayer Dependency - Isa. 26:9: “With my soul I have desired You in the night, yes, by my spirit within me I will seek You early; for when Your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.”
  - (v) Diligent Perseverance.
8. Ps. 119:10-11: “With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.”
- Prov. 10:14: “Wise people store up knowledge, but the mouth of the foolish is near destruction.”

#### C. TO BE GOD’S CHOSEN PEOPLE

Col. 3:12: “Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;”

##### 1. Joseph to Potiphar’s wife:

- (a) Gen. 39:9: “There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?”

##### 2. Development of Godly Character:

- (a) Eph. 4:22-24 - 5:4: “That you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in righteousness and true holiness.” ..... “Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.”
- (b) 2 Pet. 1:5-6: “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,”

D. TO HUMBLE ONESELF

1. Luke 18:14: “I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be abased, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”
2. 1 Tim. 1:15: “This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.”
3. When we are conscious of our sinful nature in relationship to an infinite majestic and holy God, we will not wish to selfishly compare ourselves to others.
  - (a) Eph. 5:21: “Submitting to one another in the fear of God.”
  - (b) 1 Pet. 5:5: “Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for ‘God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’”
  - (c) James 3:17: “But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.”
  - (d) Rom. 12:10: “Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another.”
  - (e) Phil. 2:3: “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.”
  - (f) Eph. 3:8: “To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.”

## E. GODLINESS WITH CONTENTMENT

1. 1 Tim. 6:6-8: “But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.”
2. 2 Cor. 9:8: “And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, have an abundance for every good work.”
3. 2 Cor. 12:9: “And He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”
4. Heb. 13:5: “Let your conduct be without covetousness, and be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’”
5. Luke 12:15: “And He said to them, ‘Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.’”
6. 1 Tim. 6:1: “Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and His doctrine may not be blasphemed.”
7. Luke 12:48: “But he who did not know, yet committed things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.”
8. Phil. 4:11: “Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content.”

## F. THANKFULNESS

1. Ps. 100:4-5: “Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.”
2. Ps. 92:1-2: “It is good to give thanks to the Lord, and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; to declare Your lovingkindness in the morning, and Your faithfulness every night.”

## G. HOLINESS

1. 1 John 1:1-5: “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life -- the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us -- that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.”
2. Heb. 12:14: “Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.”
3. 1 John 4:8: “He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”
4. 1 John 2:1: “My little children, these things I write to you, that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”
5. Eph. 4:17: “This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind.”
6. Rom. 12:2: “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”
7. Titus 2:11-12: “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all people, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age.”

## H. SELF-CONTROL

1. Prov. 25:28: “Whoever has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down, without walls.”
2. 1 Cor. 9:27: “But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”

3. Luke 9:23: “Then He said to them all, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.’”
4. Mark 1:35: “Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.”
5. James 1:14: “But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.”
6. 2 Pet. 2:11: “Whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord.”
7. Eph. 4:22: “That you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts.”
8. 2 Cor. 10:5: “Casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”
9. Prov. 4:23: “Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.”

Note: Self-control is the believer’s wall of defense against sinful desires that wage war against his soul.

I. PEACE: With God, Ourselves, Others.

1. Rom. 12:18: “If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.”
2. Phil. 4:6-7: “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”
3. Gal. 6:10: “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.”
4. Heb. 12:14: “Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.”

5. 1 Pet. 3:10-11: “For ‘He who would love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking guile; let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it.’”

J. PATIENCE:

1. Col. 3:12-13: “Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.”
2. Eph. 4:2-3: “With all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

K. GENTLENESS:

1. Gal. 5:22-23: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”
2. Col. 3:12: “Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering.”
3. Phil. 4:5: “Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.”

L. REACHING THE GOAL:

1. 2 Tim. 4:7: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”
2. Titus 2:14: “Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.”
3. 2 Pet. 1:10: “Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble.”