

DRAWING NEAR TO GOD (1 Tim. 4:7-8)
January 14, 2024

TEXT— 1 Tim. 4:7-8

THE PRACTICES OF THE GODLY (1 Tim. 4:7-8). Godly people are those in every age that practice drawing near to God through the spiritual disciplines. Spiritual disciplines are the personal practices community habits of devotion that have been practiced by God's people since Biblical times (i.e. Bible intake, prayer, fellowship etc.).

Prov. 27:17; [Rom. 8:28-29]

MAIN IDEA—Godliness is God's goal and top priority for our lives, therefore we must pursue it by drawing near to Him. **James 4:8a**

Godliness is having the proper attitude and conduct before God in everything.

3 requirements of Godliness, 1 Tim. 4:7-8.

DESIRE (V7). ...*Train yourself (WHY) for **godliness**.* The Apostle Paul instructed Timothy, a young pastor, to make godliness his main goal. His instructions apply to all Christians, especially leaders.

Jn. 16:8-11; Phil. 2:12-13

V8—Physical training is limited in time and impact (i.e. only benefitting this life and our minds and bodies). Godliness is of value in every way!

Prov. 3:6; Col. 3:23

DISCIPLINE (V7)— ...*Train yourself for godliness.* Paul used the Greek word *gymnazo* from which we get the word gymnasium. Both the faithful athlete and Christian submit to intense training and self-discipline. **1 Cor. 9:25-27**

Dallas Willard—*The general human failing is to want what is right and important but at the same time not to commit to the kind of life that will produce the action we know to be right and the condition we want to enjoy.*

Heb. 12:14

DEDICATION (V7)— ...*Train yourself for godliness.* Growth in godliness is a privilege and responsibility. It's a privilege because God invites us to grow. It's a responsibility because YOU must personally train yourself.

Phil. 2:12-13

Rom. 10:9-13; Jn. 1:12

5 practices that move us in a God-ward direction

1. **Bible Intake** (Hearing, reading, studying, memorizing, & meditating on Scripture), **Ps. 119:1-4, 9-11.**
2. **Prayer & Solitude**, **Mk. 1:35.**
3. **Fellowship** (Investing time together based on what we share in common in Christ), **Heb. 10:24-25.**
4. **Stewardship** (Faithfully using time, talents, and treasures the Lord has given to us in a manner that brings the most glory to God. **1 Pet. 4:10; Rom. 14:12**
5. **Worship (private & public)** Focusing on and responding to God. Giving the proper worth to God; magnifying His worthiness, **Rev. 5:12-13.**

C.J. Mahoney—When God finds someone who will pursue Him with perseverance, it is His delight to reveal Himself. That's the ultimate reward for our grace-motivated discipline. That is the prize we seek as we train ourselves to be godly - an intimate, personal relationship with the God who redeemed us and before whom we'll stand throughout eternity, worshiping in amazement as He reveals Himself to us in ever-increasing fullness without end.