

Godliness - Part 3

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I. Introduction.

1. Being liberated is hindered by feelings of guilt.
2. God is interested in every individual.
3. Perfection is fulfilling the purpose for which we were created. To the degree which a Christian is fulfilling his purpose for which he is created, he is at that point of time perfect.

II. The end result of a person who has trained himself in godliness. (1 Timothy 4:7-9)

1. Where we want to go.

- a. The end result is that a person can be isolated from another Christian for forty years and it will be known exactly what he is producing, like the plan for Jesuit priests.
- b. A missionary is one who has learned to sink a well into the divine resources and draw out the nourishment and strength needed to be refreshed and fruitful regardless of the time, place or circumstance.

2. How we attain it—through heart and skill.

a. Gideon was selected to free the Israelites from the strength of the Mideonites. God had Gideon narrow his army down first to ten thousand and then to three hundred because the first group was too cowardly and the second group were unprepared for the battle and were unwise. (Judges 7-8)

1) The first group had no heart for the battle. The second group had the heart but not the skill. The remaining three hundred had both the heart and the skill.

2) We attain the end result when we have both the heart and the skill.

b. Paul saw the Christian life as a great spiritual battle. Heart and skill are two key words. Heart is the most important one of these qualifications.

1) When we have the heart we can have minimal skill and be successful. 2) But without the heart, even the skilled cannot be successful.

c. Christ is the king with the army having inferior numbers in comparison to his enemy. His secret strategy is to use a certain kind of person. This person loves Christ more than family, career and things. (Luke 14:31)

1) The eyes of the Lord are searching for those who will be strong for Him. (2 Chronicles 16:9)

2) God will show Himself strong on behalf of this one whose heart is perfect before him.

d. David served God with all his heart. (Psalm 119)

e. Parable of the Soils. (Luke 8:15)

1) The good soil is a noble, virtuous and has a worthy heart.

2) We have arrived when we have a good and honest heart.

3) We learn what a good heart is also by way of contrast.

a) The good one produces a crop through perseverance.

b) Another soil is hardened not hearing the word because its heart is a traffic path for the world and it is prevented from checking all the evidence.

c) Another soil is withered because it has no root. This is a responsive heart that has no material to dig into. So by way of contrast, the good heart hears the word and is rooted into it.

d) There are links to a chain in character building: knowledge, conviction and testing. If we withstand trials we will stand. There are areas where we are all vulnerable.

e) The end result in training in godliness is a right heart. It is not preoccupied with the pleasures of the world—the thorns that Satan brings along.

4) The ten commandments are not ten suggestions.

III. How far you are from the end result.

Application questions.

1. What are the two end results of training in godliness? Which one is more important? Why?

2. Why is it that the speaker likens the Christian life to a battle?

3. What by way of contrast can we learn from the parable of soils about a good heart? Where is your heart in regards to service to the Lord? How will you develop a greater commitment to what God is doing in the world?
