

## WHY GODLINESS IS FOR LEADERS AND FOR EVERYONE ELSE

### 1 Timothy 4:7-16

1 Timothy 4 provides **four timeless principles** about godliness.

- **GODLINESS IS GOD'S PLAN FOR EVERY BELIEVER.**

*Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. 1 Timothy 4:7 (New International Version)*

Godliness is becoming more and more like Jesus.

*His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. <sup>4</sup>Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. 2 Peter 1:3-4 (NIV)*

*Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children <sup>2</sup>and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:1-2 (NIV)*

#### What Happens When Someone is Becoming More Like Jesus?

- They will be growing in Bible knowledge. (See Matthew 12:50; 26:42.)

Committed to the Father's will = knowledge + obedience

*. . . knowledge of the truth . . . leads to godliness . . . Titus 1:1 (NIV)*

(See also Romans 12:1-2; 2 Timothy 3:16.)

- They will be gaining the character of Jesus. (See Galatians 5:16-26.)
- They will be putting their faith into practice.

*For we remember before our God and Father how you put your faith into practice, how your love made you work so hard, and how your hope in our Lord Jesus Christ is firm. 1 Thessalonians 1:3 (Good News Translation)*

*Command and teach these things. 1 Timothy 4:11 (NIV)*

- **GODLINESS IS A PROCESS THAT TAKES WORK AND ATTENTION.**

*Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. 1 Timothy 4:15 (NIV)*

*And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:18 (English Standard Version)*

"Train yourself" = gymnasium = train for athletic competition

- **GODLINESS IS THE ONLY THING THAT HAS ETERNAL VALUE.**

*. . . train yourself to be godly. <sup>8</sup>For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. 1 Timothy 4:7-8 (NIV)*

*Jesus said, <sup>19</sup>"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup>But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. Matthew 6:19-20 (NIV)*

What are you doing now that's going to last?

- **GODLINESS HAS AN IMPACT ON THE PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE.**

*Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. <sup>13</sup>Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. <sup>14</sup>Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you. <sup>15</sup>Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. <sup>16</sup>Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers. 1 Timothy 4:12-16 (NIV)*