

# Godliness: Our Responsibility

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: 2 Peter 1:3ff.

B. Because of our union with Christ and because we have all that we need in Christ, we are to fulfill our responsibilities.

## II. We do have the ability to fulfill our responsibility. (Philippians 2:12-13)

A. We are 100% responsible and we are 100% dependent.

1. We are to make every effort. (2 Timothy 2:15; Romans 12:8, 11; 2 Peter 1:10; Ezra 7:10)

2. Human effort is indispensable when it comes to godliness, but it is also inadequate.

## III. There are other ways to translate a couple of the words in 2 Peter 1:5.

A. For the word “add,” our working translation is “contribute.” In Greek, this word means “a generous and costly contribution.”

B. For the word “goodness,” our working translation is “energy” or “courage.” (Romans 12:11)

C. So, we must contribute energy to be morally courageous in our faith. In other words, we must be committed. (Philippians 3: 13-14)

## IV. We must not only be committed to godliness, but also knowledgeable convictions. (Romans 10:1-2)

A. Misdirected zeal is not pleasing to God.

B. There are two applications of knowledge in the New Testament.

1. Even accurate knowledge can make a person proud and insensitive to others. (1 Corinthians 8:1ff)

2. Accurate knowledge can help us achieve godliness. (Titus 1:1ff)

3. Our attitude toward knowledge will determine which application appears in our lives. (Isaiah 66:1ff)

a) We must tremble at the Word of God and recognize how much we have to learn. (2 Timothy 3:16)

b) We must submit to the authority of the Word of God.

c) We can use the scriptures to train our families and ourselves in good values. (2 Timothy 3:16; Ephesians 6:4; Hebrews 12:6-11; 2 Peter 1:12, 15; Psalm 1; Ephesians 4:23; Romans 12:2)

d) In the Christian life, we are never finished building the foundation- we always continue to deepen it and relearn lessons.

V. Self-control and perseverance have to do with godliness as we look at ourselves.

A. We must control our own appetites, passions and desires. (Proverbs 25:28)

B. Perseverance is the godly response to keep on going under adversity.

VI. Godliness is devotion to God that results in a life that's pleasing to God. It is a relationship with God that manifests itself in character and conduct that pleases Him.

VII. Brotherly kindness is fervent love that is specifically directed at fellow members of the body of Christ. Love is directed not just at other Christians but also at unbelievers and our enemies.

VIII. We either keep growing in these characteristics or we regress- we do not stand still. (2 Peter 1:8)

IX. If we keep doing these things, we will receive a rich welcome into God's presence. (2 Peter 1:11)

**Application questions:**

1. How does God supply us with the strength to be morally courageous? How do we also choose it?

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2. When you examine your own heart, which response to knowledge do you see? Has your knowledge of the scriptures made you insensitive to those who don't yet understand them? Or does your knowledge of the scriptures make you hungry to learn more? How does your knowledge of the scriptures change your values?

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3. As you look at the situations and events of your life recently, do you feel like you have been growing in godliness or regressing in it?

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