



Week 1: GODLY LIVING

The Bible stresses the importance of specific activities in the life of a believer. These activities help us to stay on the right track in our walk with God and service in the ministry by staying connected to Him. However, these things do NOT make us right with God. They are the result of right standing with God:

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

Titus 2:11-14 NASB

Doing certain activities is the result of someone who has been saved by God's grace but are not entirely automatic and do involve intentionality and prioritization. In light of this, believers need to train themselves to follow a daily pattern of various spiritual actions to continue working out their salvation:

So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure.

Philippians 2:12-13 NASB

Paul told the Philippian church that salvation has two components:

- Our engagement
- God's engagement

When a believer gets too fixated on one or the other, imbalance sets in. But when someone allows the transforming power of the Spirit to aid them in the

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practice of these spiritual activities, a healthy spiritual life ensues. Therefore, these activities should be practiced in order for a believer to “play their part.”

Spiritual Connectors

Prayer

pray without ceasing,
1 Thessalonians 5:17 NASB

The word of God stresses the importance of prayer in the life of a believer in almost every biblical book. From the Old Testament to the New, the Lord instructed His followers to seek Him “with all their heart” by “praying always” (see Jeremiah 29:13 and Luke 18:1).

Fasting

And Jesus said to them, "The attendants of the bridegroom cannot mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them, can they? But the days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast.
Matthew 9:15 NASB

Fasting should be a frequently implemented discipline in the life of a believer. Though fasting cannot be done as much as other disciplines such as prayer and Bible study, many Christians take time once a week, month, or several times a year to seek the Lord through fasting.

Bible Study

My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your sight; keep them in the midst of your heart. For they are life to those who find them and health to all their body.
Proverbs 4:20-22 NASB

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God's word is worth our "attention." Learning what God's word says and means is vital to the health and growth of a believer. In fact, it is just as important to our spirit as food is to our body (see Matthew 4:4).

Church Attendance

not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near. Hebrews 10:25 NASB

Most of the New Testament was written to...CHURCHES!!! In light of this, a believer must be a part of the "assembly" in order to benefit from the promises found in the Bible. "You" are not the church. "WE," when gathered together, are the church!

Dreaming

The mind of man plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps. Proverbs 16:9 NASB

Having a "plan" (dream) should be a huge part of a believer's life. As Pastor Waymon Rodgers used to say, "the Lord can't drive a parked car." This means Christians should be making godly plans and having dreams for what their life and ministry will look like, all the while seeking the Lord's guidance in all their endeavors.

How To Put Them Into Practice

Just knowing that something needs to get done does not mean that it will get done. It takes a **plan** to accomplish a goal. Here's yours:

- Specificity
- Accountability

In reference to these spiritual activities, you must be specific in order to get them accomplished. This means you should have a clear understanding of

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your goals every day so that you can track whether or not they were accomplished. Additionally, having a form of accountability is vital to accomplishment. Using the checklist above will help with this! If you practiced a spiritual activity, check it off! But if you failed to do so, put an x by it. This will allow you to see how you're doing in regards to consistency. Having an accountability partner is also a very important part of accomplishing your goals. Who in your life is allowed to check up on you? "Did you pray? Read your Bible? Go to church?" If nobody has that role, it's time to make a phone call...

In reference to developing a prayer life specifically, Pastor John teaches two steps. Step one, set a time. Step two, show up.

In light of all these things, it is also important to note the "F.I.T." principle:

- Frequency: how often are you practicing these activities? Hopefully every day.
- Intensity: are you passionately engaging in the activities or are you going through the motions?
- Time: are you saying a few words to God or is there a considerable amount of time spent in prayer? Hopefully the latter.

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