



Steps To Godliness

By Johnny Caruso on September 9, 2021

TODAY'S READING: 2 Peter 1

In verses 3 and 4 Peter tells us we have been given the power to participate in God's divine nature. We are equipped through His power to live a life of godliness. He also tells us we can overcome the sinful desires that exist in us and in the world. But in verse 5-7 he tells us we must work at it, and he gives us a step-by-step process of things to do to add to our faith:

First, we add virtue or a high standard of living. We must work to do good, of course in God's power. This, in my opinion, is the base of a solid foundation.

We need to then add knowledge. The deeper our understanding of God through prayer and His word is the way we do good work. Just wanting to do good is not enough, we must know what is good and we do that by knowing God.

Then we add self-control. Without the ability to control ourselves our knowledge of what is good and our desire to do it is worthless. Self-control is the moment-by-moment restraint of our urges and choices in the moment temptation overwhelms us. Steadfastness is the ability to have self-control over an extended period. It is standing firm and not wavering when the pressure of temptation attacks us.

Next is godliness. This keeps goodness from being human goodness. It is godly goodness. It is the moral excellence that reflects the very nature of God instead of the temporary goodness of man.

Then Peter adds brotherly affection. This, in my opinion, is what makes the family of God the Family. It is the connectedness of a family. If you are a Christ follower, you are a part of my Familia. You are my brothers and sisters in Christ, which means we are to love each other.

And then the top or highest position Peter lists is love. The godness of Jesus was motivated by His love for the Father and His love for us. It is a selfless, sacrificial love and concern for others.

It makes sense that the ultimate reason for good is the same self-sacrificing love that Jesus had for us.

PRAYER: Father, thank You that You have given us the power to live godly lives in the world and give You glory.

TOMORROW'S READING: 2 Peter 2

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