

God's Promises: Take Them to the Bank

Training in Godliness

Godliness leads to what is best (1 Timothy 4:7-10). Godliness – thinking with the mind of Christ, having a heart for the Father and for people like Jesus, living daily to be like Jesus – is of immense value in every way both in this life and the life to come. But it doesn't just happen. Godliness requires focus, effort, and discipline like an Olympic athlete. As we pursue God and His ways in such a way, He meets us and grows us in godliness that leads to abundant life and His best for us.

GET THINGS STARTED

Knowing that you only live once, what are some of the things on your personal *bucket list* that you want to experience? What are some YOLO (You Only Live Once) experiences you've already had that you never anticipated or thought would actually happen? What is on your spiritual *bucket list* that you would like to see become reality?

GO DEEPER

1. From 1 Timothy 4:7-10, what does it mean to *train yourself for godliness*? What does it look like – or what should we do – to train for godliness?
2. According to Hebrews 11:6, what two things should every follower of Jesus believe in faith? Why are these things important when it comes to pursuing godliness?
3. In 1 Corinthians 9:24-25, why do we enter strict training? What is the reward or prize from these verses, and what does that reward mean?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. What does *training for godliness* look like in your life? How would you rate your own focus, effort, and discipline in pursuing godliness? What hinders these three areas for you? Which one do you find to be the most difficult, and why?
2. What is one thing God may be stirring in you to do this week to train for godliness?

PRACTICE IT NOW

Take time as a group to purposefully pray for an increased capacity to train and grow in godliness. Ask God to pour out His Spirit upon you in such a way that your desire for godliness increases as well as your focus, effort, and discipline. Ask Him for the ability to walk in grace as you train for godliness, and for clarity in what practical steps you need to take right now to grow in godliness.