

The Power of Godliness

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➤ Intro:

- **2 Tim. 3:5** godliness, some deny it's power

- mockers say there is no benefit derived from a godly life
- **the fact that some deny the power of godliness**, tells us that godliness is empowering

- **What is the power of godliness?**

➤ How are we empowered by godliness?

- **1 Tim. 6:3** Jesus' words (apostles commissioned) compose the doctrine conforming to godliness

- **obey Jesus' words = godliness**

➤ - **2 Pet. 1:2-3** godliness is through true knowledge of God's word

- when we live in the manner God ordains in His word (**godliness**), we are **empowered**
- **true godliness is evident in the way we live**, the things we say and do
 - a changed life demonstrates the **power** of godliness in one's life
 - a person who claims to be a Christian but lives in sin is **denying the power** of godliness

- **2 Pet. 1:5-7** things we do as Christians – **resulting in an empowered, godly life**

- **vs. 6** godliness (reverence for God, devout, resulting in doing the things please to God)

- **2 Pet. 1:8-11** the power God gives godly people – those living as He commands

- **vs. 8** useful and fruitful in the true knowledge of Christ
- **vs. 9** not blind or short-sighted
- **vs. 10** not stumble
- **vs. 11** abundant entrance into kingdom of Christ
- **you're doing what you should, and confident in your salvation**

➤ - **illus.: the power of good technique**

- playing sports, musical instruments, driving a car, driving a nail, etc. all require technique to do well – **expound**
- **godliness** is the technique require to be a child of God – **doing the right things, the right way, for the right reasons**
- **as a faithful Christian. . . .**

- **Empowered because we live a disciplined life** – godliness
 - **1 Tim. 4:7-8** godliness, disciplined life, promise for present life and life to come
 - **present life:** best life we can live on earth is a disciplined life
 - **life to come:** eternal life in heaven
 - **secret to a happy, successful life: godliness**
 - we are empowered when we discipline ourselves, resulting in success to every aspect of life

- - **illus.: Paul**
 - **1 Cor. 9:27** Paul, godliness, disciplined his body, made his body his slave
 - suffer torture and hardship when it was beneficial
 - **when we have power over our bodies to do the things that are best, we have the best possible life**
 - study God's word, pray, attend assemblies, do personal work, stay away from evil, work hard professionally, use time wisely, personal finances, etc.
 - **a strong Christian has the best possible life anyone can have on earth** – happy, successful

- - **1 Pet. 3:10-12** a godly, disciplined life results in answered prayers – godliness – empowerment
 - **God directing, leading, protecting us, as make these requests in prayer**

- **Empowered by the godly treatment of our bodies** – godliness
 - **godliness empowers us to have a better quality of physical life**
 - **Rom. 1:18** wrath of God known – creation, physical consequences of sin
 - **Rom. 1:21-23, 28** error in their thinking – religion – error in thinking results in sin
 - **Rom. 1:24** God gives these people over to their sinful passions – dishonor bodies, physical, sin
 - **Rom. 1:26-27** physical penalty: homosexuality example
 - **physical penalty for sin** – homosexuality, aches
 - **better health we have, more fruitful we can be in kingdom**
 - **Rom. 1:32a** eternal penalty: hell
 - cf. godliness results in eternal life

- - **godliness empowers us to glorify God with physical body** – **power to glorify God**
 - **1 Cor. 6:19-20** godliness, glorify God in our bodies
 - **Matt. 5:16** shine our lights before men, the see our good deeds and glorify God

- - **Jn. 21:18-19 illus.: Peter glorified Jesus by crucifixion**
 - **As a faithful Christian, you're glorifying God in your physical body!**
 - physical things you're doing in Lord's kingdom
 - actions, speech, physical adornment, places you go and things you go
 - result: better health, eternal life

- **Empowered by our godly testimony** – godliness, testimony
 - **2 Tim. 1:8** not ashamed of testimony of Christ, but rather suffer for sake of gospel
 - each of us determine whether to suffer for sake of Christ, by deciding whether to share Christ's testimony

- - **1 Jn. 5:10-11** we have testimony in ourselves, that God has given us eternal life
 - vs. 2-3 love, obey God
 - vs. 4-5 overcome world, faith, believe Jesus is the Son of God
 - vs. 6-9 believe testimony of God (Spirit): blood, water
 - vs. 10-11 our deeds testify that we are God's children and have eternal life – obey

- - **Rev. 12:11** power of our testimony to overcome Satan
 - **testimony:** to testify, as in a legal sense before a judge
 - **Rev. 6:9; 12:17** suffer when we hold to the testimony of Christ – **2 Tim. 3:12**
 - godliness, testimony of our lives, suffer, eternal life
 - victorious come Satan and sin by our testimony – deeds, actions, words, faithfulness

- - **1 Pet. 3:1-2** the power of your testimony to bring people to Christ – change lives
 - observe chaste conduct, converted to Christ

- **As a faithful Christian:**
 - you are holding to the testimony of Christ – obeying
 - you are sharing the testimony of Christ with people – gospel
 - your life is a testimony of God – deeds, example, show others how to live as Christian
 - you are telling other people what God's done for you, and how He's impacted your life

➤ **Empowered by love** – godliness

- **2 Cor. 5:14-15** love of Christ controls (constrains) us, **He died for us, we live for Him** – godliness

- **1 Jn. 4:19** love Him because He loved us 1st – God gave Jesus, Jesus gave Himself in cross

- **1 Jn. 5:2-3** obey God's commandments (above)

- **Heb. 5:9** Jesus source salvation, those who obey

➤ - **1 Jn. 3:14, 16** love brethren, lay down lives for them, because Jesus laid down His life for us – power of godliness, love

➤ - **Jn. 13:35** world knows we're Jesus' disciples because of our love for one another – power of godliness, love

➤ - **Lk. 6:27-29, 35-36** love your enemies – power of godliness, love

- save some through the gospel (**1 Cor. 9:19, 23**)

- overcome evil with good (**Rom. 12:21**)

- **illus.:** woman overcomes criminal through love, and the words of her testimony

- **2007, 92-year-old Pauline Jacobi**, reads Bible everyday - not know her religion

- **gunman jumped in her car** and ordered her to **give him her money** – imagine, put self there

- **told him no three times**, then **began talking to him**

- **told him that if he killed her**, she'd go to heaven and he'd go to hell

- **told him Jesus was in the car**, and that he went with her everywhere she goes

- **man looked around and started crying**

- **then she talked to him for 10 minutes** in her car

- **man told he thought he'd go home and pray** tonight

- **Ms. Jacobie told him he didn't have to wait till tonight**, that he could pray anytime he wanted

- **as the man cried, she told him she was going to give him all the money she had, \$10**, then told him not to spend it on whisky

- **man thanked her for the money, reached over and kissed her on the cheek, and walked away**

➤ **Summary / Inv.**

- **As a faithful Christian:**

- **you possess the power of godliness, and it's evident in your life**

- **you have a godly, disciplined life** – obeying God

- **you are glorifying God in your body**

- **your love for others evident** – God, brethren, neighbor, enemy

- **love God and other people enough to share your testimony** – do you really believe it

- **love your enemies and do good toward them** – Christ, gospel, good deeds

- **you overcome evil with good**

- **when you are confronted by sinful people, speak the truth, and don't hide it**

- **We can all improve. . . . Will you. . . .**

- **inv.:** godliness begins with becoming a Christian. . . .