

“Living in a Spirit of Awe”

2 Peter 1:1-11

I. Understanding Godliness

A. Definition

Venerate

*“to regard with reverential respect or
with admiring deference.”*

“Somewhere at the intersection of joy, fear, mystery, and insight lies awe, the ineffable (indescribable) response to the amazing world around us.”

“Overwhelming, surprising, humbling, even a little terrifying—awe is what we feel when faced with something sublime, exceptional, or altogether beyond comprehension.”

“the feeling of awe as pushing people beyond selfishness and giving them a desire to do good.”

“cultivating awe is part of unlocking the truest sense of life's purpose.”

- Dr. Dacher Keltner

“the emotion of self-transcendence, a feeling of admiration and elevation in the face of something greater than the self.”

I. Understanding Godliness

A. Definition

B. The Godly Man or Woman

Job 40:4

“Behold, I am insignificant; what can I say in response to You? I put my hand on my mouth.

I. Understanding Godliness

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II. Evidence of True Godliness

A. Personal Holiness

2 Peter 3:11

Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

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B. Spiritual Power

2 Timothy 3:1-5

But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, slanderers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness although they have denied its power; avoid such people as these.

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C. Contentment

1 Timothy 6:6

But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment.

Psalm 73:25

“whom have I in heaven, and besides you I desire nothing on earth.”

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III. The Absence of Godliness

Psalm 12:1,2

“Help, LORD, for the godly person has come to an end, For the faithful have disappeared from the sons of mankind. They speak lies to one another; They speak with flattering lips and a double heart.”

“Help O Lord, for the godly are fast disappearing! The faithful have vanished from the earth.” (NLT)

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A. In the World AND Church

B. The Problem

“It is ignorance of God – ignorance both of his ways and of the practice of communion with him – lies at the root of much of the church’s weakness today. We live in a day that spawns great thoughts of man and leaves room for only small thoughts of God.”

-J.I.Packer

"moral, therapeutic deism"

Often without realizing it, every culture quietly molds and shapes our views of God. But we can't grow in our relationship with God when we insist on relating to God as we think he should be. – Christian Smith

Dwarfish Christians

“Alas! Much has been done of late to promote the production of dwarfish Christians. Poor, sickly believers turn the church into a hospital, rather than an army. Oh, to have a church built up with the deep godliness of people who know the Lord in their very hearts, and will seek to follow the Lamb wherever he goes!”

-C.H. Spurgeon

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IV. Growing in Godliness

A. Need for Diligence

“People do not drift toward holiness. Apart from grace-driven effort, people do not gravitate toward godliness, prayer, obedience to Scripture, faith, and delight in the Lord. We drift toward compromise and call it tolerance; we drift toward disobedience and call it freedom; we drift toward superstition and call it faith. We cherish the indiscipline of lost self-control and call it relaxation; we slouch toward prayerlessness and delude ourselves into thinking we have escaped legalism; we slide toward godlessness and convince ourselves we have been liberated.”

"You will not stroll into Christlikeness with your hands in your pockets, shoving the door open with a careless shoulder. This is no hobby for one's leisure moments, taken up at intervals when we have nothing much to do, and put down and forgotten when our life grows full and interesting... It takes all one's strength, and all one's heart, and all one's mind, and all one's soul, given freely and recklessly and without restraint."

- A. J. Gossip

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A. Need for Diligence

B. Need for Discipline

1 Timothy 4:7-9

But stay away from worthless stories that are typical of old women. Rather, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily training is just slightly beneficial, but godliness is beneficial for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

1 Timothy 6:3,4

If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, he is conceited and understands nothing

"Godly character is not the result of good intentions, wishful thinking, some mystical "zap," or even sheer Bible knowledge. It's developed through the self-disciplined application of God's Word at a very basic level, enabled and empowered by God's Spirit." - John MacArthur

