

## The Productive and Effective Life Part 2: Goodness

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- **The Effective and Productive Life:** 8 Biblical Steps to Reaching Your Full Potential.
- Not so much a “self-help” series, but a “the tools you need to answer the call” series.
- An Inconvenient Truth: God expects us to get the job done!!
- Good News! There is a wonderful 8 step approach to success in this area outlined in 2 Peter 1:1-11!
- **2 Peter 1:3-11**
- What are the promises in these verses?
- Does this happen automatically?
  - o Make every effort – **verse 5** This is available, but we have to make every effort to attain it.
- What if you don’t do these things?
- **This Week: Goodness**
  - o The list is a loose progression I believe, and also I see three categories: building, protecting, mature fruit. Goodness is part of building.
- Goodness here is also translated “virtue” or “moral excellence.”
  - o Going to the Greek is very interesting. The most literal translation would be “manliness!” It’s a derivative of the word “male” or “stronger for lifting.”
    - Would you have expected that?
  - o We’re not talking “be a good boy” here, we’re talking “man up!” This is a picture of strength instead of passive compliance with religious rules.
  - o What, then, does “add to your faith goodness” mean?
    - You believe, now stand up and do something about it!
    - You have faith; now have the strength to do the right thing.
- What is the opposite of “manliness” then? Cowardice or abdication.
  - o Ever wonder why cowards go to hell? **Revelation 21:6-8**
    - Would you have figured that list would start with “the cowardly?”
    - Why? Because the damage done is the same. **Proverbs 18:9**
    - This is why branches that bear no fruit are cut off.
- Men, you are called by God to be valiant and strong men of God. Rise to that calling!
  - o Don’t be a spiritual coward. That isn’t who you are.
  - o You are more than a conqueror! **Romans 8:37**
- So, let’s do some “adulging” today! (The modern version of “man up!”)
  - o How do we have the strength to do the right thing relating to the following verses?
  - o Plank in eye: **Matthew 7:3-5**
    - It isn’t always fun to look at yourself in the mirror. Be strong.
  - o Approach Throne of Grace: **Hebrews 4:14-16**
    - Have the strength to approach God!
  - o Baptism: **Acts 2:38-39**
    - Baptism opportunity August 15<sup>th</sup>!!
  - o Seek the Holy Spirit: **Luke 11:13**
    - If you do not ask, you will not receive. (usually!!)
  - o Take care of widows and orphans: **James 1:27**
    - FMSC and New Vision support. How about widows?
  - o Love and Respect: **Ephesians 5:33**
    - Do this even when you don’t feel like it. Add love and respect to a difficult relationship.
  - o Calling and sending: **Romans 10:14-15**
    - If you are called, MNSOM is a way for you to be sent!
  - o The Main Thing: **Matthew 22:37-40**
    - Love God. Love your neighbor in church. Say “hi” to someone and encourage them today.

- Pray for each other before you finish up!