

The Productive and Effective Life Part 6: Godliness

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.**
- **2 Peter 1:3-12**
- What are the promises in these verses?
 - o Does this happen automatically? Make every effort – **verse 5**
 - o And it is good to be reminded of these things even if you know them!!
 - o Persevere in paying attention. Here is where progress really gets made!
- **This Week: Godliness**
- This one (godliness) can be intimidating. We're trying to touch something big.
 - o Just trying to properly define this makes me feel inadequate.
 - We'll start off easy. Godly: like God or of God. Having to do with God. Similar in character to God. Holy. Set apart for God.
 - o That's a good start but I think we can hit closer to home.
 - See this in light of the progression. This is "fruit." (vs what?)
 - Your new life in Christ has been born and has been growing!
 - Godliness is the point where the new creation overshadows the old. Your new life in Christ has grown beyond your old and overcome it!
 - o **Luke 6:43-45.**
 - Two trees. Godliness is when the good tree is pushing out the bad!
 - Not that you are forcing yourself to do good, but it's in there and it just comes out!
 - You'd rather do "God stuff" than not. Have you been there?
 - Your motivations change and your vision changes!
- So, what do you do if you just aren't there?
 - o First off, I'd guess most Christians are not here yet. So, let's just face that.
 - o Second, realize you can't gut this one out.
 - I couldn't gut out a Swedish exam. Instead, I'd have to learn Swedish!
 - In the same way, we get here by starting our progression over again.
 - o Map 2 Peter 1 onto **John 8:31-32.**
 - If you want to be free but you aren't, then hold to Jesus' teachings.
 - If you want to be godly but aren't, add to your faith! Etc.
 - o Big problem: People try to mimic godliness without having godliness.
 - That can turn into legalism or other yucky things.
 - The next big problem is reacting against the first problem!
- Let's try to understand this by mapping our progression onto **James 2:14-26.**
 - o Lack of deeds is not a deeds problem; it is a faith problem. **James 2:17, 26**
 - o It gets weird when people who have dead faith try to mimic the actions of a vibrant faith in God.
 - (Talk about faith vs deeds for salvation? **Matthew 20:28**)
 - o Go back and fix your faith! Just like I'd have to go back and learn Swedish!
 - o No short cuts on this deal. Go back and increase the measure of the steps of this that you have.
- As we pray today I want you to do a self-assessment. Look and see where you are with God.
 - o As you look, don't get nervous unless you see that you don't believe in God.
 - o If you don't believe, then pledge your faith in God. You can do that!
 - o If you do believe, don't worry about where you are. **Romans 5:1-2, 6-10**
 - o God loved you soooo much when you were his enemy! He is on your side rooting for you to succeed!
 - o Look and see where you are, then let's grow from there.
- Pray for each other before you finish up!