

## GODLINESS

Last week, we examined patience. This seems to be one of the traits people feel that they lack and wish they had more of. We should be just as desirous of growing in godliness, which is just as important in building up our character as Christians.

Only Peter uses this word (with the exception of Paul in his letters to Timothy and Titus) in this second epistle and when he healed the lame man at the temple (**Acts 3:12**). It is actually translated “holiness” in the KJV of **Acts 3:12**. Other translations use the word “piety” as well as “godliness.” The verb form is sometimes translated worship, and in **Acts 10:2** the adjective describes Cornelius as a “devout man.” The root word of the Greek also has the idea of “reverent.”

It seems to me that the attitude of godliness is one of respecting God, loving God, and being spiritually-minded.

How do we develop this sense of reverence and devotion within ourselves? First of all, we need to consider the greatness of God over Creation. Meditation on God’s power and mighty works throughout creation should cause us to have great respect for God. Anything with great power should cause us to approach with great caution and respect for that power.

We also need to consider the greatness of God in His plan of salvation. Our godliness (devotion) with reference to our love for God will increase as our understanding of God’s love us increases. This was the point that Jesus made in **Luke 7:40-47**. The more we realize God’s forgiveness, the more we will love Him in return. As John said, “We love because He first loved us.” (**1 John 4:19**).

We also need to increase our awareness of God’s working in our lives. We must remember that He is watching us because He cares for us, and it motivates us to live godly for His glory (**2 Peter 3:11**).