

Foundation to Fullness: Part 7

Godliness

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What's in a mirror?

- Glass
 - A combination of sand, gypsum, soda ash, limestone and dolomite.
 - Tons of these 5 ingredients are combined in varying amounts in a furnace which reaches nearly 3000 degrees Fahrenheit. The furnace is filled with blasts of heated air and natural gas, which transform the room into a tremendous blowtorch.
 - The glass is spread into a sheet and allowed to cool; first on a film of liquid tin, lowering the temp. to about 1000 Fahrenheit, to the low 100's. After cooling, the glass is scored and cut.
- Silver
 - Silver is a base element which must be refined and isolated from debris in ore and other base elements.
 - Silver was once refined by fire, which meant it had to be heated to between 1600-1800 degrees Fahrenheit.
 - In the modern world, silver is refined by dissolving in nitric acid, which can separate all but the noblest of elements.

When these two materials are combined, one with the other...they form a reflective surface which we know as the modern mirror.

There's a lot more going on under the surface than we realize when someone looks like and acts like Jesus...there has been a tempering of the soul, and hardening of belief, and a willingness to allow self to melt away.

How can God Demand Godliness?

Definition of Godliness:

- The control or filling of the Holy Spirit which produces qualities of conformity to Christ. Inner piety or reverence. Godliness means that I am reflecting the image of Christ by the Holy Spirit's power.

The hard facts of Godliness, The Good news of the Gospel:

- Jesus Christ set Himself up as the standard for how we are to live: John 14:23-24, 1 Peter 1:13-16, *1 John 1:3-6
 - *This is part of the gospel of Christ: There is a holy God who has a standard of holiness...*
- STILL can't 'do Godliness' apart from Him: *John 15:5, Jer. 13:1-11, 1 Tim. 1:12-17
 - *This is another part of the gospel of Christ: If God is the standard, we need the intervention of Jesus to even have a chance...*

- Pursuing Godliness separates humble men from proud boys: James 1:19-25
Says...19 My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, 20 for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. 21 Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.
- 22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 2 But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does. [emphasis added]
 - The man took a 'passing glance': Was his purpose accomplished?
 - The other man looked, and continued to look: What was the result?

What I might take away from this:

- I choose to remain in the fire and be changed from the inside out (1 Peter 2)*Jesus tells me what stays and what goes and I obey...as I remain close to him, he is able to convict and gently guide me as I walk.
- The Spirit of God says "Keep the gloves up" (Romans 6, 1 Cor. 9)*I get smudges on my mirror as I reflect Christ, but the good news of Christ's forgiving love for me compels me to repent from smudges, not settle with them. Jesus is my motivator when it comes to contending for godliness!
- God is the standard (1 Peter 1)
 - *Godliness comes from Him and looks like Him; I will not compromise or excuse myself from what He asks me to do. Grace for sin catches like a net under a tight rope walker, not bounces like a trampoline.*
 - "The holiness of God becomes the standard for the believer's life and conduct. This should put to end the often useless discussions over what is permitted and what is not in the Christian life. Proper conduct can be tested by the simple question, Is it holy? This is the believer's standard. Although he does not always measure up to it, he must never compromise it." (Charles Ryrie)
- God is also the way (John 14)
 - *It might be cruel if God told us to be holy and then left us to figure it out; He is with us and for us! Our excuses for how we look on the outside are revealed when we look on the inside and see no dependence, no yearning and no submission to Jesus! He LOVES US, He wants the BEST for us, and he will be with us.*

A Challenge for Godliness:

- Go home, find a dry erase marker or crayon and write a verse that reminds you to follow God closely on your bathroom mirror; leave it there all week.