*THE PRACTICE of GODLINESS* by Jerry Bridges

**Chapter Four– “Seeking a Deeper Devotion” – Psalm 119:10**

*“Scripture defines unbelievers as totally godless…At the time of our salvation, God through His Holy Spirit deals with this godless spirit within us. He gives us a new heart and moves us to obey Him, He gives us a singleness of heart and inspires us to fear Him, and He pours out His love into our hearts so that we begin to comprehend His love for us. All of this is bound up in the blessings of the new birth, so we may safely say that all Christians possess, at least in embryonic form, a basic devotion to God. It is impossible to be a Christian and not have it. The work of the Holy Spirit at regeneration assures this.” (page 37-38)*

**“With all my heart I have sought You; Do not let me wander from Your commandments.” (Psalm 119:10NASB)**

**S** ing for joy in the LORD, O you righteous ones…sing to Him a new song! Do you have fresh

**E** xpressions of praise upon your lips today because of His saving grace in your life? Are you

**E** ngaged in thanking Him because He has given you everything you need for life and godliness?

**K** nowing that although we possess a basic devotion to God at the time of our salvation, God

**I** mplicitlyrequires that we grow in this devotion to Him. We are to seek a balanced approach

**N** ecessary to grow in godliness. We must seek to grow equally in our fear of God, the love of

**G** od, and our desire for God. But we must also never forget that in doing so, we must be dependent upon the Holy Spirit to bring about this growth. (pg. 38)

**A** nd one of the means of grace through which the Spirit of God causes this growth is **prayer**.

**D** o you regularly ask God; *“Heighten my fear of You”* (Ps.86:11), *“Help me be gripped by Your*

**E** *verlasting love for me”* (Eph.3:16-19), *“Intensify my desire Lord to know You more”*(Phil.3:10)?

**E** ach one of us who is committed to the practice of godliness should be adding these biblical

**P** rayers to our prayer list. And not only should we be praying these regularly we should also be

**E** arnest in **meditating** on specific passages of Scripture that will help grow us in Christlikeness.

**R** emember, the Holy Spirit will make His Word come alive in our hearts and will produce growth as we meditate in prayerful dependence upon Him to do His work. (pg.39-40)

**D** evotion to God is not only seen in *praying to Him* and *meditating upon Him in His Word* but

**E** ffectively is seen in another essential element and that is the practice of private **worship**.

**V** enerating God: adoring Him, esteeming Him, honoring Him, and worshipping Him because

**O** f who He declares Himself to be in the pages of Scripture is vital to our growth in godliness.

**T** he call to “Ascribe to the LORD the glory due to His name” for example in Psalm 29:1-2

**I** s the highest purpose for which we were created! We must never forget this! He is worthy

**O** f our worship and He is worthy of **heart** **obedience** to His perfect will revealed in His Word.

**N** ow as we set aside undistracted time each day to have fellowship with the Lord, we will by His enabling grace grow in our hatred for sin and grow in our heart’s desire to seek a deeper devotion to Him.(pg.’s 41-45)

Ladies, is it your desire to enhance your growth in your devotion to God? Are you growing in your fear of God and the love of God? Are you growing in hatred for your own sin? Is your desire to know Him and to worship Him deepening? Are you practicing the discipline of spending time alone with the Lord, allowing Him to speak to you through His Word and you speak to Him through praise and prayer? What is hindering you? What specific changes do you need to make today to become more intimately acquainted with your Savior, Redeemer and Friend?

May we together continue to seek “to grow in our devotion to the most wonderful Person in all of the universe, the infinitely glorious and loving God. Nothing can compare with the privilege of knowing Him in whose presence is fullness of joy and in whose hand there are pleasures forever (see Psalm 16:11).” (pg. 47)

***Sing for joy in the LORD, O you righteous ones…sing to Him a new song---today!***

Pressing onward and looking upward,

Christyn