*THE PRACTICE of GODLINESS* by Jerry Bridges

**Chapter Two – “Devotion to God” – Revelation 15:4**

*“…It is impossible to build a Christian behavior pattern without the foundation of a devotion to God. The practice of godliness is first of all the cultivation of a relationship with God, and from this the cultivation of a life that is pleasing to God. Our concept of God and our relationship with Him determine our conduct.” (pg.7)*

**“Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For You alone are holy; For ALL THE NATIONS WILL COME AND WORSHIP BEFORE YOU, FOR YOUR RIGHTEOUS ACTS HAVE BEEN REVEALED.” (Revelation 15:4NASB)**

**D** o you realize that your daily speech, attitudes and behavior reflect your concept of God?

**E** valuate your life today. If you are devoted to the god of “self” then everything becomes a

**V** ehement “MY will be done.” If you are devoted to the God of the Bible then your entire life is

**O** rdered by “Not my will but YOUR will be done.” Your concept of God will reflect who you are

**T** ruly devoted to. One of the foundational elements of true devotion to God is the fear of God.

**I** n our world today, the fear of God seems “old-fashioned” to many modern-day Christians. p.8

**O** ur Bible in both the O.T. and N.T. clearly reveals: God inspires us to fear Him (Jer.32:40), it

**N**  otes that Jesus delights in the fear of Him (Is.41:3), it demonstrates that obedience to Him flows out of a fear of Him (Deut.6:1-2), it says the church walks in the fear of Him (Acts 9:31), it teaches us that we are to have a healthy fear of His loving discipline (Phil2:12; Heb.12:4-11), and scripture even describes that the redeemed in Heaven fear Him (Rev.15:3-4)…these and many more examples in the Bible clearly state that the fear of God is not old-fashioned but is ***“this profound sense of veneration and honor, reverence and awe, that draws forth from our hearts the worship and adoration that characterizes true devotion to God.”*** *(pg.10)*

**T** he love of God, Jerry says, is the other foundational element of true devotion of God. (pg.8)

**O** nly a God-fearing person can truly be gripped by God’s supreme love. How much you and I appreciate God’s love is conditioned by how deeply we fear Him(pg.15). As you become increasingly aware of God’s infinite majesty, holiness, and transcendent glory, you will no doubt become increasingly aware of your own sinfulness as the apostle Paul did (1 Cor.15:9; Eph.3:8; 1 Tim. 1:15). As your majestic view of God heightens and the messy reality of your own sinfulness heightens, your wonder and amazement of Christ’s selfless and sacrificial love poured out for ***you*** at Calvary will heighten exponentially (Jn. 3:14-16; Rom. 5:8-10; Tit. 3:3-7; 1 Jn. 4:8-10). Are you gripped by and rejoicing in the truth that ***you*** have been loved and accepted by God for the sole reason that ***you*** are united to His beloved Son (Eph.1:6)? Christ died for ***you***! *Selah!*

**G** rowth in our fear of God and Christ’s love for us awakens within us a desire to enjoy God’s

**O** mnipotent presence and faithful fellowship. It produces a longing for God Himself (Ps.63:1)!

**D** o you yearn to experience more fellowship with the living God? Do you desire to glorify Him and live a life pleasing to Him? The Bible indicates that this is God’s plan for you, from its earliest pages right through to the end (pg.20)! It’s God’s ultimate objective for us and is the object of the Spirit’s work in us…TO BE FULLY DEVOTED TO HIM…Not my will be done but YOUR will be done!

**“For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.” (2 Corinthians 5:14-15)**

*John Murray says, “What or whom we worship determines our behavior.”*

So ladies, let’s together by God’s grace continue to worship “the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords” and prayerfully learn from the scriptures how to be singularly devoted to Him through our words, attitudes and actions for His great name’s sake.

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