

GODLY SELF-IMPROVEMENT

Introduction

- 1) **2 Peter 1:1, 5-8**
- 2) Our lives should be a constant effort at betterment and improvement
 - a) A whole industry of self-improvement books, gurus, theories, etc.
- 3) Worldly self-improvement is fleeting and limited to this world and its wisdom
- 4) We should strive for godly self-improvement – using wisdom from the Creator

I) **Godly Self-Discovery**

- A) Self-discovery is vital to any self-improvement – must see ourselves as we truly are
- B) Self-deception is a common illusionary problem and a great danger
 - 1) Saul (1 Sam. 15:13-14, 20-21)
 - 2) Pharisee (Lk. 18:10-14)
 - 3) Laodicean church (Rev. 3:14-17)
- C) The Bible is the true means of honest self-discovery
 - 1) Gives honest judgment about our heart (Heb. 4:12; Prov. 4:23)
 - 2) Use God's word to examine ourselves (2 Cor. 13:5; Psa. 26:2)

II) **Key to Godly Self-Improvement**

- A) A constant diet of the **Word of God**
 - 1) In with the good, out with the bad (1 Pet. 2:1-2; Psa. 119:9)
 - 2) Perfect guidebook for every good work (2 Tim. 3:14-17)
 - 3) Provides blessedness and happiness (Psa. 1:1-3; Prov. 29:18)
 - 4) Provides strength (Psa. 119:11), peacefulness (Phil. 4:6-7), and hope (Col. 1:5)

III) **How to Enhance Our Godly Self-Improvement**

- A) Humility (1 Pet. 5:5-7)
- B) Prayer (Col. 1:9-10)
- C) Thinking on good things (Phil. 4:8)
- D) Fighting the good fight (2 Cor. 10:3-5; 1 Tim. 6:12; 1 Pet. 5:8-9)
- E) Keeping godly company (Prov. 13:20)
- F) Daily examination with God's Word (2 Cor. 13:5)
 - 1) Have I been thankful for my blessings? (Col. 3:15)
 - 2) Have I learned to be content? (Phil. 4:11)
 - 3) Have I spoken evil of anyone? (Jas. 4:11)
 - 4) Have I judged according to appearance? (Jn. 7:24)
 - 5) Have I been gossiping about others? (1 Tim. 5:13)
 - 6) Have I been merciful and forgiving to others? (Eph. 4:32)
 - 7) Have I been compassionate and sympathetic (1 Pet. 3:8)
 - 8) Have I shined the light of truth to others? (Phil. 2:15)

Conclusion

There is always a need for godly self-improvement in our lives (2 Pet. 3:18). God seeks those who desire to be more like Him in every way (Titus 2:11-12). How much self-improvement has taken place in your spiritual life over the past year? May God help us to seek Him first!