

E. The fifth quality that we are to add to our faith is godliness.

In 2 Peter "godliness" is mentioned in 1:3, 1:6-7, and 3:11. Peter says: "and to perseverance, godliness."

"Godliness" is both a quality of character and a way of life – a life that is morally good, devout, pious, and devoted to the honor and service of God. In fact, "godliness" overlaps substantially with "holiness."

Now as soon as "godliness" or "holiness" are mentioned, some people recoil from the concept. Some of these do so because the very idea is distasteful to their nature and outlook. They are like the worldly man who seemed to think that religion is a good thing as long as it is not overdone; or like the carnal man who thought that religion is a good insurance policy against future judgment, but that getting too much of it is like overpaying the premiums!

The natural man, unrenewed and untransformed, does not want to be holy, neither does he like holy people. Holy people make him uncomfortable! And as believers, we have remnants of the natural man in us. The natural man chooses to go his own way instead of God's way. He prefers to follow his own will rather than God's will. He dislikes any standards that require obedience, and seeks to be a law to himself. He wants forgiveness but without regeneration (Chester Tulga, a well-known Baptist writer, states that "forgiveness without regeneration is the most popular religion in America"). The natural man likes the idea of God's love, but he doesn't like the idea of God's holiness and abhorrence of sin. The natural man likes saints who go about doing good to mankind, but dislikes them if their saintliness rebukes his sin.

In his book The Pursuit of God, A. W. Tozer says:

The whole transaction of religious conversion has been made mechanical and spiritless. Faith may now be exercised without jarring the moral life and without embarrassment to the Adamic ego. Christ may be "received" without creating any special love for Him in the soul of the receiver. The man is "saved," but he is not hungry or thirsty after God. In fact he is specifically taught to be satisfied and encouraged to be content with little.

The goal of the believer is nothing less than perfection! At death, or when we see the Lord, we will be made perfect in holiness, and experience final