

## Motives To Godly Living

### Titus 2:12

**Objective:** Inspire people to obtain useful motives to Godly living.

**Reading:** Titus 2:11-15

**Memory:** Titus 2:12, “I\_t\_u\_t\_s\_“N”\_t\_u\_a\_w\_p,\_a\_t\_l\_s,\_u\_a\_g\_l\_i\_t\_p\_a\_,”

#### **Introduction:**

1. Why is it that so many people profess to be Christian, but so often don't act like it? Some appear Christian while in church, but act in ways that would bring shame and reproach on Christianity at other times? Why is it that we are not more diligent or more successful in our Christian walk?
2. I want to suggest, that maybe, when we keep falling into ungodly behavior again and again, it's because something is lacking. We need to have what it is that teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,

#### **We need to understand what motivates people to godly lives.** (WHAT?)

So that we can not only practice godly living ourselves, but teach our children and others to live godly as well. How does one learn to say “no” to ungodliness? How do we learn to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives? Titus 2:11 indicates that it is the grace of God that brings salvation and which has appeared to all men. First of all, notice that nobody is left out in the opportunity. It has appeared to all men. I am sure this grace is manifested in Christ. I am sure this grace involves the Holy Spirit. In God's grace, these are manifestations of His love and His power and His Presence. To put it into practical terms, I want to suggest a couple of vital concepts that we are to learn, which will move us, to self-controlled, upright and godly lives:

*The first factor is simply the*

#### **I. Fear of God.**

##### **A. The essentiality of fearing God.**

1. Listen to the advice the Apostle gives to keep our lives in line. 1 Peter 2:17, “**Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.**”
2. Proverb 1:7, tells us that “**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.**”
  - a. Here is where we learn to make good solid, prudent decisions for life. Here is where we learn the discipline that it takes to live godly!
  - b. Understand that “Fear” is not so much a run and hide fear. Can't flee from God. Fear here is Awe. Reverence. Respect leading to prompt obedience.
3. Deuteronomy 31:12-13, “**2 Assemble the people—men, women and children, and the aliens living in your towns—so they can listen and learn to fear the LORD your God and follow carefully all the words of this law. 13 Their children, who do not know this law, must hear it and learn to fear the LORD your God as long as you live in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess.**” Fear of the Lord is desirable and teachable. It is learned by hearing the “law” of the Lord, i.e., Things recorded by God in the Old Testament in this case.
4. Jesus teaches it; Luke 12:4-5, “**...do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him.**”
5. See what Solomon concludes in Ecclesiastes 12:13, “**Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.**” This fear of God, in a sense, is what life is all about.
6. This “fear” amounts to a recognition that we are totally in His hands and will be judged by Him.
  - a. Luke 23:40-41, “**40 But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don't you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? 41 We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.**” Thief knew this!
  - b. Psalms 33:8-11, “**8 Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the people of the world revere him. 9 For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. 10 The LORD foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples. 11 But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.**” God spoke the world into existence. How can we not fear Him if we understand this? He

deposes nations and kings. Such power is to be respected.

7. The Fear of God will have people looking for security; for whatever will enable us to be pleasing and acceptable in His sight rather than bring His anger and vengeance or make us a stench in His nostrils. Hebrews 10:31, ***“It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”***
8. Fear of God will prepare people to respond readily when a WAY is opened or pointed out for them; The grace of God that has appeared to all men has said in John 14:6, ***“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”***
9. Fear of God is the motivation for people to dig into the WORD of God so that they KNOW what it is that God expects, demands, and requires of human beings!
10. Fear of God enables people to be aware and convinced of God’s reality. His power and authority. His purity and holiness. And that He holds true to whatever He says.

## B. How do people come to possess such Fear of God?

1. One way is by hearing or reading about what God can do and has done.
2. Cf. Old Testament accounts; things like;
  - a. Nadab and Abihu. Leviticus 10:1-3, ***“Aaron’s sons Nadab and Abihu took their censers, put fire in them and added incense; and they offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, contrary to his command. <sup>2</sup> So fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD. <sup>3</sup> Moses then said to Aaron, “This is what the LORD spoke of when he said: “Among those who approach me I will show myself holy; in the sight of all the people I will be honored.”***
  - b. Achan. Joshua 7:25-26, ***“Joshua said, “Why have you brought this trouble on us? The LORD will bring trouble on you today.” Then all Israel stoned him, and after they had stoned the rest, they burned them. <sup>26</sup> Over Achan they heaped up a large pile of rocks, which remains to this day. Then the LORD turned from his fierce anger.”***
3. Cf. New Testament as well. Demonstrates the same God;
  - a. Romans 11:22, ***“Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off.”*** Sounds like something to fear!
  - b. Sorcerer struck blind. Acts 13:9-11, ***“<sup>9</sup> Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said, <sup>10</sup> “You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? <sup>11</sup> Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind, and for a time you will be unable to see the light of the sun.” Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand.”***
  - c. Herod smitten with worms, Acts 12:21-23, ***“<sup>21</sup> On the appointed day Herod, wearing his royal robes, sat on his throne and delivered a public address to the people. <sup>22</sup> They shouted, “This is the voice of a god, not of a man.” <sup>23</sup> Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died.”***
  - d. Ananias and Sapphira; Acts 5:4-5, ***“...What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God.” <sup>5</sup> When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened.”*** Same with her! And in verse 11, ***“Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.”*** Such fear is good, desirable and appropriate. When the people of God lose their fear of God, they get sloppy and wanders in wrong directions bringing shame and reproach on the church.

## C. Make this personal – learn to fear God.

1. Learn to fear God. He is watching and He knows your every thought and action. He cares!
2. Ponder the power that it takes to run the universe. Earthquakes, Tsunamis, Volcanoes. Rain for 40 days. Blight, Drought. Pestilence. Aides.
3. Who is in control of History?. Who sets up and deposes kings and rulers?
4. Who is able to throw souls into hell where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth?
5. This stuff is NOT pretend. Not stories. Not fairy tales. Learn to take all this seriously and let it affect your life and move you to constant godly living.

As important as Fear of God is as a motive for Godly behavior and living, there are some vital things it can not accomplish. Fear does not make a good motive for self-sacrifice, for serving others with a willing heart. You can't even take good nurturing care of your own children simply out of fear. Some things need to be done out of love! A second fundamental motivating concept for godly living is the

## II. Love of God.

### A. The essentiality of loving God.

1. Psalm 147:11, "...**the LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.**" Fearing Him and hoping in His love are absolutely compatible! You can fear a being in the sense of awe, reverence and respect, and still hunger for and expect their love.
2. Love of God is the most primary of requirements! Matthew 22:36-38; <sup>36</sup> **Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"** <sup>37</sup> **Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'** <sup>38</sup> **This is the first and greatest commandment.**" Above all else, this is the most basic fundamental of religion. Who really wants to be feared when they can be loved?
3. Love is even a better motivation for obedience; John 14:15, **"If you love me, you will obey what I command."** Fear can prompt compliance, but how much better when prompted by love!
4. What fear can make one willingly die for someone else, or sacrifice for another? Only love carries that kind of power.
5. It is so much better when someone serves you because they WANT to than when they do something because the HAVE to!
6. Here is the real motivation for doing things the right things for the right reason, for doing them by the right spirit! 1 John 4:18, **"There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love."**
7. This is the part that makes Christianity and Christian service an inexpressible joy instead of the drudgery of servitude! With this concept, we serve and live godly lives because we WANT to!

### B. How do people come to possess such love of God?

1. By experiencing Him. Experience God. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
2. Rely on God and experiencing Him at work in your life.
3. 1 John 4:19, **"We love because he first loved us."** Love by comprehending His love for us!
4. Read about God. Primarily the Scriptures, but others loving thoughts as well.
5. Read about His love for people; His providing for them. His wondrous love.
6. By learning about Him. When you learn how good and gracious He is, how very compassionate, how He works for us, you can't help but fall in love with Him!
7. Talk with others about what God has done. How can you love someone you don't know? Don't think about? Talk to God. This is how people learn to love each other. *Pray*. Read Scriptures.
8. Imitate Him; Ephesians 5:1-2, **"Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."** Imitate Him and thus learning His nature. Try it-you'll like it, is true here!
9. Romans 12:1-2, **"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."** By submitting to it, you can test it and see that His good and pleasing and perfect will is desirable and warrants your approval, your appreciation, your love!

### C. Make this personal - Learn to love God.

1. Count your many blessings. Practice thankfulness; when you see your children, when you taste food, when you see beautiful things, that you are able to see anything. When you are able to pay a bill. When you get back home after a trip - thank God. Before meals; thank God.
2. Credit God whenever something good happens; James 1:16-17, **"Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights,"**
3. Realize how very much you personally have been forgiven and taken care of; Luke 7:47; **"But he who has been forgiven little loves little."**
4. Appreciate things like truth, righteousness, unselfish love, honor and purity and things noble.

These are of God. Of His nature, and teach us to love the One they describe.

**So What?**

How will we be moved to say “no” to ungodliness and worldly passion? How will we find motivation to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age? How will we teach our children and other people to do so? By acquiring and teaching these heartfelt concepts. Learn to fear God, and learn to love God.

**Closing Prayer:**

## **Motives To Godly Living**

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**Memory:** Titus 2:12

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### **We need to understand what motivates people to godly lives.**

Vital concepts that will move us to self-controlled, upright and godly lives.

#### **I. Fear of God.**

A. The essentiality of fearing God.

1 Peter 2:17 Proverb 1:7 Deuteronomy 31:12-13 Luke 12:4-5 Ecclesiastes 12:13  
Luke 23:40-41 Psalm 33:8-11 Hebrews 10:31 John 14:6

B. How do people come to possess such Fear of God?

Leviticus 10:1-3 Joshua 7:25-26 Romans 11:22 Acts 13:9-11 Acts 12:21-23 Acts 5:4-5, 11

C. Make this personal – learn to fear God.

#### **II. Love of God.**

A. The essentiality of loving God.

Psalm 147:11 Matthew 22:36-38 John 14:15 1 John 4:18

B. How do people come to possess such love of God?

1 John 4:19 Ephesians 5:1-2 Romans 12:1-2

C. Make this personal - Learn to love God.

James 1:16-17 Luke 7:47

#### **So What?**

Learn to fear God, and learn to love God.