

DISCUSSION GUIDE

GROWING IN GODLINESS
Make Every Effort — Week 10

ICEBREAKER: When you're alone at home, do you wear shoes, socks, slippers, or go barefoot? Why?

OVERVIEW: At the beginning of the year many people get extremely serious about their physical fitness. They spend big bucks on gym memberships and fitness equipment. They give up their favorite foods, and starve themselves, and wake up extra early, and put their bodies through living hell in order to get in shape. While physical fitness is important, sadly many Christians put far more effort into their physical fitness than their spiritual fitness. But spiritual fitness — godliness — is much more important and beneficial. It's time to get our priorities in order. In this study we will talk about what we need to do to get serious about making every effort to become godly.

1. Read 2 Peter 1:5-7. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. Read 1 Timothy 4:7-8. Why is spiritual fitness more important than physical fitness?
3. Read 2 Peter 1:3. What does this verse teach about godliness? What resources has God given us to help us cultivate godliness?
4. Drawing from the language of the Bible that we must train for godliness, pursue godliness, and make every effort to become godly, we can conclude that becoming godly should be the Christian's priority. Why should godliness be our priority? How can a person prioritize godliness?

5. If God has given us everything required for godliness, why is it so hard to be godly?
6. 1 Timothy 4:8 says that "godliness is beneficial in every way." What are the benefits of godliness?
7. The definition of godliness is devotion in action. It is devotion to God resulting in a life that is pleasing to Him. It is an intimate friendship with God that results in a life of conformity to His will. The sermon mentioned three motivations for devotion to God — the fear of God, the love of God, and the desire for God. What is the fear of God, and how does it inspire devotion — the pursuit of intimacy with God?
8. How does understanding the love of God inspire devotion?
9. How can a person cultivate godliness? What do you personally need to do to grow in godliness?

The Last Word: "If you are a casual Christian, you will be a carnal Christian. If you are a lazy Christian, you will be a lousy Christian."