



BIBLE NUGGETS

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Grace
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The Mystery of Godliness

1 Timothy 3:16

“And Without Controversy Great Is The Mystery of Godliness: God Was Manifest In The Flesh, Justified In The Spirit, Seen of Angels, Preached Unto The Gentiles, Believed On In The World, Received Up Into Glory.”

“Walking In Godliness Requires That We Guard Against Worldly Wisdom”

Dr. David Jeremiah

Prerequisites to Godliness

Requisite #1

We cannot live godly lives without receiving salvation through faith in the death and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. By our standard, non-Christians do good deeds. However, it's impossible to meet God's standard of righteousness without professing faith in Christ. “We are all infested and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags” (Isaiah 64:6, NLT). Trusting the redemptive work of Jesus Christ is the only way to wash our filthy rags clean. After we do that, godliness is one of the qualities we can add to our faith that will make us fruitful and effective as Christians (2 Peter 1:6-7).

Requisite #2

We cannot live godly lives without God's grace. In his letter to Titus, the apostle Paul explained, “The grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men” (2:11). Grace is the vehicle of salvation, and it imparts godliness to us. Godliness teaches us that “denying ungodliness and worldly lust, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ (12-13).

Requisite #3

We cannot live godly lives without the Holy Spirit. When we trust in Christ, we are baptized by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:13), which enable us to walk according to God's will rather than our own (Gal. 5:16). Willpower cannot prevail against temptation. Abraham was justified by faith alone, but his faith did not remain alone.

True faith is always accompanied by works. When he placed his son on the altar, Abraham demonstrated absolute faith in God. His obedience did not make him righteous, but it proved his righteousness. Godly works are the evidence of genuine faith. Have you ever heard the quip, "You have to walk the walk and talk the talk." Walk is a present-tense verb that indicates a way of life. It requires a daily habit of continual obedience to God's Word.

The Mystery of Iniquity

The mystery of iniquity can only be spiritual discerned. "But the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him, neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, ..." (1 Cor. 2:14-15). The spiritual man is the person to whom God gives the knowledge of His will. The word "natural" here stands opposed to the "spiritual." It denotes those who are governed and influenced by natural instincts; the animal passions and desires, in opposition to those who are influenced by the Spirit of God. This is why the recidivism rates in the United States is the highest in the civilized world. According to the National Institute of Justice, "almost 67% of criminals released return before the first year out of prison." And very highly educated prosecutors, judges, and parole boards are dead set against the death penalty or life in prison without parole for first degree murderers. Why? Because, "The flesh (the natural man) lust against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh (the natural man): and these are contrary the one to the other: so that these learned men cannot do the things that they ought" (Gal. 5:17). And the surest means for a mistrial or dismissal of all charges is for the prosecutor to quote the Word of God. Verses from the Quran, fine! Gandhi quotes, fine. Shakespeare, fine! NO BIBLE QUOTES! Why? Because the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto them.

Happy Independence Day Prayer

On this Independence Day, I am reminded of all those who have suffered, bleed and died for my freedom. However, cause me to never forget that the sacrifice for my ultimate freedom was made at Calvary, by Your Son, my Savior, The Lord Jesus Christ. Let me, therefore, never take my freedom both spiritual and physical, for granted. May I always remember that a very high price was paid in securing my freedom. My freedom cost others their very lives. Lord, today, bless these who have served and continue to give their lives for my freedom. With favor and bounty, meet their needs and watch over their families.

Dear Father, I am so thankful for this nation, for all the sacrifices others have made to build and defend the country, I am grateful. Thank you for the opportunities and freedoms we have in the United States of America. Help me never to take these blessings for granted. Help me to live my life in a way that glorifies you, Lord. Give me the strength to be a blessing in someone's life today, and grant me the opportunity to lead others into the freedom that can be found in knowing the Lord Jesus Christ, because whom the Son sets free, is free indeed (John 8:36).

Replacing The U.S. Flag?

Singer Macy Gray op-ed called for the U.S. flag to be replaced: "It is tattered, dated, divisive and incorrect. It no longer represents all of us. The flag is too white. The current flag serves as a replacement to the confederate flag. It's not fair to be forced to honor it." However, it's the red, white and blue and millions of flag-draped coffins that made this ingrate a millionaire. I would suggest that she move to a country whose flag she can honor. But don't count on it. She merely proves that traitors and tyrants come in all shades.

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