

# Godly Living: Starting Today

*1 Timothy 4:7b-8 (GW)* train yourself to live a godly life. **(8)** Training the body helps a little, but godly living helps in every way. Godly living has the promise of life now and in the world to come.

## 1. Identify the things that held you back from Godly living

*Matthew 18:8-9 (Msg)* "If your hand or your foot gets in the way of God, chop it off and throw it away. You're better off maimed or lame and alive than the proud owners of two hands and two feet, godless in a furnace of eternal fire.**(9)** And if your eye distracts you from God, pull it out and throw it away. You're better off one-eyed and alive than exercising your twenty-twenty vision from inside the fire of hell."

*Ephesians 4:17-18(Msg)* And so I insist—and God backs me up on this—that there be no going along with the crowd, the empty-headed, mindless crowd. **(18)** They've refused for so long to deal with God that they've lost touch not only with God but with reality itself.

## 2. Make a clean break with the past running straight to Godly living

*Colossians 3:5-8 (Msg)* that means killing off everything connected with that way of death: sexual promiscuity, impurity, lust, doing whatever you feel like whenever you feel like it, and grabbing whatever attracts your fancy. That's a life shaped by things and feelings instead of by God. **(6)** It's because of this kind of thing that God is about to explode in anger. **(7)** It wasn't long ago that you were doing all that stuff and not knowing any better. **(8)** But you know better now, so make sure it's all gone for good: bad temper, irritability, meanness, profanity, dirty talk.

*1 Peter 5:6-11 (Msg)* To be content with who you are, and don't put on airs. God's strong hand is on you; he'll promote you at the right time. **(7)** Live carefree before God; he is most careful with you. **(8)** Keep a cool head. Stay alert. The Devil is poised to pounce, and would like nothing better than to catch you napping. **(9)** Keep your guard up. You're not the only ones plunged into these hard times. It's the same with Christians all over the world. So keep a firm grip on the faith. **(10)** The suffering won't last forever. It won't be long before this generous God who has great plans for us in Christ—eternal and glorious plans they are!—will have you put together and on your feet for good. **(11)** He gets the last word; yes, he does.

## 3. Start the Godly training lessons daily

*Romans 13:11-14 (Msg)* But make sure that you don't get so absorbed and exhausted in taking care of all your day-by-day obligations that you lose track of the time and doze off, oblivious to God. **(12)** The night is about over, dawn is about to break. Be up and awake to what God is doing! God is putting the finishing touches on the salvation work he began when we first believed. **(13)** We can't afford to waste a minute, must not squander these precious daylight hours in frivolity and indulgence, in sleeping around and dissipation, in bickering and grabbing everything in sight. **(14)** Get out of bed and get dressed! Don't loiter and linger, waiting until the very last minute. Dress yourselves in Christ, and be up and about!

*Philippians 1:6 (Msg)* There has never been the slightest doubt in my mind that the God who started this great work in you would keep at it and bring it to a flourishing finish on the very day Christ Jesus appears.