The Power of Godliness

Intro:
- 2 Tim. 3:5 godliness, some deny it’s power
  - mockers say there is no benefit derived from a godly life
  - the fact that some deny the power of godliness, tells us that godliness is empowering

- What is the power of godliness?

- 2 Tim. 3:5 godliness, some deny it’s power
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How are we empowered by godliness?
- 1 Tim. 6:3 Jesus’ words (apostles commissioned) compose the doctrine conforming to godliness
  - obey Jesus’ words = godliness

- 2 Pet. 1:2-3 godliness is through true knowledge of God’s word
  - when we live in the manner God ordains in His word (godliness), we are empowered
  - true godliness is evident in the way we live, the things we say and do
    - a changed life demonstrates the power of godliness in one’s life
    - a person who claims to be a Christian but lives in sin is denying the power of godliness

- 2 Pet. 1:5-7 things we do as Christians – resulting in an empowered, godly life
  - vs. 6 godliness (reverence for God, devout, resulting in doing the things please to God)

- 2 Pet. 1:8-11 the power God gives godly people – those living as He commands
  - vs. 8 useful and fruitful in the true knowledge of Christ
  - vs. 9 not blind or short-sighted
  - vs. 10 not stumble
  - vs. 11 abundant entrance into kingdom of Christ
  - you’re doing what you should, and confident in your salvation

- illus.: the power of good technique
  - playing sports, musical instruments, driving a car, driving a nail, etc. all require technique to do well – expound
  - godliness is the technique require to be a child of God – doing the right things, the right way, for the right reasons
  - as a faithful Christian. . .
Empowered because we live a disciplined life – godliness

- 1 Tim. 4:7-8 godliness, disciplined life, promise for present life and life to come
  - present life: best life we can live on earth is a disciplined life
  - life to come: eternal life in heaven
  - secret to a happy, successful life: godliness
    - we are empowered when we discipline ourselves, resulting in success to every aspect of life

- illus.: Paul
  - 1 Cor. 9:27 Paul, godliness, disciplined his body, made his body his slave
    - suffer torture and hardship when it was beneficial
    - when we have power over our bodies to do the things that are best, we have the best possible life
      - study God’s word, pray, attend assemblies, do personal work, stay away from evil, work hard professionally, use time wisely, personal finances, etc.
    - a strong Christian has the best possible life anyone can have on earth – happy, successful

- 1 Pet. 3:10-12 a godly, disciplined life results in answered prayers – godliness – empowerment
  - God directing, leading, protecting us, as make these requests in prayer

Empowered by the godly treatment of our bodies – godliness

- godliness empowers us to have a better quality of physical life
  - Rom. 1:18 wrath of God known – creation, physical consequences of sin
  - Rom. 1:21-23, 28 error in their thinking – religion – error in thinking results in sin
  - Rom. 1:24 God gives these people over to their sinful passions – dishonor bodies, physical, sin
  - Rom. 1:26-27 physical penalty: homosexuality example
    - physical penalty for sin – homosexuality, aides
    - better health we have, more fruitful we can be in kingdom
  - Rom. 1:32a eternal penalty: hell
    - cf. godliness results in eternal life

- godliness empowers us to glorify God with physical body – power to glorify God
  - 1 Cor. 6:19-20 godliness, glorify God in our bodies
  - Matt. 5:16 shine our lights before men, the see our good deeds and glorify God

- Jn. 21:18-19 illus.: Peter glorified Jesus by crucifixion

  - As a faithful Christian, you’re glorifying God in your physical body!
    - physical things you’re doing in Lord’s kingdom
    - actions, speech, physical adornment, places you go and things you go
    - result: better health, eternal life
Empowered by our godly testimony – godliness, testimony
- 2 Tim. 1:8 not ashamed of testimony of Christ, but rather suffer for sake of gospel
  - each of us determine whether to suffer for sake of Christ, by deciding whether to share Christ’s testimony

- 1 Jn. 5:10-11 we have testimony in ourselves, that God has given us eternal life
  - vs. 2-3 love, obey God
  - vs. 4-5 overcome world, faith, believe Jesus is the Son of God
  - vs. 6-9 believe testimony of God (Spirit): blood, water
  - vs. 10-11 our deeds testify that we are God’s children and have eternal life – obey

- Rev. 12:11 power of our testimony to overcome Satan
  - testimony: to testify, as in a legal sense before a judge
  - Rev. 6:9; 12:17 suffer when we hold to the testimony of Christ – 2 Tim. 3:12
    - godliness, testimony of our lives, suffer, eternal life
      - victorious come Satan and sin by our testimony – deeds, actions, words, faithfulness

- 1 Pet. 3:1-2 the power of your testimony to bring people to Christ – change lives
  - observe chaste conduct, converted to Christ

  As a faithful Christian:
  - you are holding to the testimony of Christ – obeying
  - you are sharing the testimony of Christ with people – gospel
  - your life is a testimony of God – deeds, example, show others how to live as Christian
  - you are telling other people what God’s done for you, and how He’s impacted your life
Empowered by love – godliness
- 2 Cor. 5:14-15 love of Christ controls (constrains) us. He died for us, we live for Him – godliness
  - 1 Jn. 4:19 love Him because He loved us 1st – God gave Jesus, Jesus gave Himself in cross
  - 1 Jn. 5:2-3 obey God’s commandments (above)
  - Heb. 5:9 Jesus source salvation, those who obey

- 1 Jn. 3:14, 16 love brethren, lay down lives for them, because Jesus laid down His life for us – power of godliness, love

- Jn. 13:35 world knows we’re Jesus’ disciples because of our love for one another – power of godliness, love

- Lk. 6:27-29, 35-36 love your enemies – power of godliness, love
  - save some through the gospel (1 Cor. 9:19, 23)
  - overcome evil with good (Rom. 12:21)

illus.: woman overcomes criminal through love, and the words of her testimony
  - 2007, 92-year-old Pauline Jacobi, reads Bible everyday - not know her religion
  - gunman jumped in her car and ordered her to give him her money – imagine, put self there
  - told him no three times, then began talking to him
  - told him that if he killed her, she’d go to heaven and he’d go to hell
  - told him Jesus was in the car. and that he went with her everywhere she goes
  - man looked around and started crying
  - then she talked to him for 10 minutes in her car
  - man told he thought he’d go home and pray tonight
  - Ms. Jacobie told him he didn’t have to wait till tonight, that he could pray anytime he wanted
  - as the man cried, she told him she was going to give him all the money she had, $10, them told him not to spend it on whisky
  - man thanked her for the money, reached over and kissed her on the cheek, and walked away

Summary / Inv.
- As a faithful Christian:
  - you possess the power of godliness, and it’s evident in your life
  - you have a godly, disciplined life – obeying God
  - you are glorifying God in your body
  - your love for others evident – God, brethren, neighbor, enemy
    - love God and other people enough to share your testimony – do you really believe it
    - love your enemies and do good toward them – Christ, gospel, good deeds
    - you overcome evil with good
    - when you are confronted by sinful people, speak the truth, and don’t hide it

- We can all improve. . . . Will you . . .

- inv.: godliness begins with becoming a Christian. . .