

"The Means of Grace: Submission to God Prioritizing Your Life"
1 Timothy 4:6-16

"The *Means of Grace* are the *lifeblood* of sanctification and the believers *chief resource* in the *pursuit of holiness*." (Jerry Wragg)

"*God has chosen* means to help us grow in our treasuring of God, awe of God, and in becoming more like Christ. *The Lord in His infinite wisdom* has chosen means, if used in love and sincerity, that will lead to progressive sanctification." (Paul Shirley)

"There is no such thing as a passive, comfortable, occasional, part-time Christianity. There is only a hard-working, self-denying, submissive, Christ-treasuring kind of Christianity."

- The Means of Grace 101:
 - God is a God of means (*the method, or instrument used to obtain a result or achieve an end*) and He receives glory through these means.
 - Psalm 104:10-24:
 - 1) God warms the earth with the sun and without the sun things on earth would die.
 - 2) God waters the earth with rain and without rain crops would die.
 - 3) God nourishes our bodies with food and without food our bodies would die.
 - 4) God heals our bodies with medicine and without certain medications and treatments our bodies will die.
 - 5) God quenches our thirst with water and without water our bodies would die.
 - What are the Means of Grace?
 - *Church-Centric*: 1) Preaching and Teaching. 2) Baptism and Communion. 3) Corporate Praise and Prayer. 4) Discipleship/Fellowship. 5) Corporate Service.
 - *Personal*: 1) Confession of Sin. 2) Prayer and Fasting. 3) Reading, memorizing, and meditating on the Word. 4) Suffering.
- The Work Ethic of the Means of Grace:
 - 1 Timothy 4:6-16:
 - 1) "You will be a good (excellent) servant of Christ Jesus." 2) "Being trained (nourished) in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine (Scripture)..." 3) "Train yourself (like an athlete) for godliness..." 4) "For to this end we toil (work to exhaustion) and strive (agonize)..." 5) "Command and teach these things." 6) "Practice (take pains with) these things, immerse (totally engulfed) yourself in them..." 7) "Persist (persevere) in this..."
 - Philippians 2:12-13; 2 Corinthians 7:1
 - 1) We are obedient to God, not to please men but to please God. 2) We are called to work out our salvation. 3) We are told to have an awe and respect for God and the means in which He has given. 4) God will give us the will to work for His good pleasure. 5) God's Word and awe and reverence of Him, is the source of all our sin-killing and obedience.

