

Daily Prayer

THURSDAY, JULY 23

Today's prayer is based on I Timothy 4.7b-8, ESV.

Rather train yourself for godliness;

Father, help me to see the wisdom that is behind this counsel,
that I should *train* myself to *be like you*.

That I need *training* implies several things:

that I am not presently like you,

that some of my dissimilarity is instinctual, some habitual, some willful.

But it also implies that *progress is possible*, and there is hope and purpose.

Hope that, with your help, I can do this to some degree.

Purpose in that you have defined it for my life, that is,

to participate with you as you extract me from myself and this world,
and prepare me for you and yours.

for while bodily training is of some value,

On the one hand, Father, do not let me *undervalue* the importance
of taking care of my body which you have made,

for it is the housing of your Spirit within me,

and do not let me *overvalue* that body

so that I descend into sensuality and hedonism

and in so doing neglect true spirituality.

godliness is of value in every way,

Lord, help me to keep in mind the ways in which I *can* be like you,
and the ways I cannot.

I know I will never be You. You are God, infinite, eternal, unchangeable.

I am not and will never be those things - and I do not covet them.

But there are many things you are that, with your help, I *can* approach.

You are gracious, merciful, kind, patient, immensely strong in gentleness,
thoughtful of others, active in helping, wise.

Make me more of these things as I live and move and have my being in you.

as it holds promise for the present life

These things do indeed hold promise right now, in this life,
helping me in everything I face.

Lord have mercy on me.

and also for the life to come.

Lord, I am trusting you that, when all is said and done in my life,
you will have made me ready for eternity with you,

for Jesus and His kingdom's sake. Amen.

personalized by ptc