

**Thanks Godly Men: Grip it and Rip it**  
**Golf Lessons for the Christian life.**  
 Psalm 112:1-10

**Father's Day**—a day to thank and encourage Godly Men.

God, the Church, and your family want you to succeed.

Golf Lessons for the Christian Life

**Lesson #1. Grip**—What do you hang onto?--How do you hold on to what you have?

*<sup>6</sup>Surely he will never be shaken; a righteous man will be remembered forever. <sup>7</sup>He will have no fear of bad news; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD. <sup>8</sup>His heart is secure, he will have no fear;* —Psalm 112:6-8a

**Grip:** Hold on to Jesus **tightly**.

Hold on to your possessions and control **lightly**.

*<sup>5</sup>Good will come to him who is generous and lends freely, who conducts his affairs with justice.* —Psalm 112:5

**Grip:**

1. the way one holds a golf club; the fine balance between loose and firm hands appropriately placed for maximum distance and accuracy.
2. the delicate balance between freedom and “have and hold” in relation to your spouse.

**Lesson #2. Stance**—balance and alignment.

*Praise the LORD. Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who finds great delight in his commands.* —Psalm 112:1

*Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. <sup>2</sup>But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.* —Psalm 1:1-2

**Make Your Stand for the Lord at:**

**Work**—faithful employee and presence for Christ.

**Home**—spiritual leader, shepherd, and prayer warrior.

**Church**—servant, support, encouragement, witness, and devoted.

**Lesson #3. Focus**—keep your eye on the ball.

*<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. <sup>2</sup>Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, Goals priorities, head in the game.* —Hebrews 12:1-2a

**Focus:**

- On Jesus and His **Kingdom** —Matthew 10:39.
- On improving **your** own game —Luke 6:41.
- On **encouraging** rather than judging and competing —Hebrews 3:13.

**Lesson #4. Poor Shots—we will chunk a few—we will make mistakes.**

*“Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry.”* —Ephesians 4:26

**Mulligan:**

1. overlooking a bad shot and not counting it, as though it didn't happen; not an acceptable practice in handicap or tournament play, but welcome among friends.
2. overlooking a bad choice (i.e., critical or hurtful comment, inconsiderate action, or oversight) by your spouse, friend, or family.

*Golf is all about recovering from bad shots.* —Bob Rotella

*A happy marriage is the union of two good forgivers.* —Robert Quillen

**Divot:**

1. a chunk of grass taken out of the playing surface by the swing of a club; if not repaired immediately, it will take longer to heal, and its mark could negatively affect the play of others.
2. a hurtful comment or inconsideration that requires a quick apology to keep your relationship happy and healthy.

**Repair Relational Divots immediately:**

**Receive forgiveness, from the Lord, spouse, friends, family, and self.**

**Offer forgiveness—let people be themselves, human beings, trying their best.**

**Keep Communication open—After forgiveness, go the second mile. “Are we OK?”**

**Conclusion:** Have fun! Enjoy life, your family, spouse, and church....

Dr. Bob Rotella writes in *Golf is not a Game of Perfect*, “Negative thinking is almost 100 percent effective.”

Harvey Penick, instructor and author of *The Little Red Book*, says, “When it comes to hitting a golf shot, a negative thought is pure poison.”

Focus on the good in your spouse, your church, and others.

**Memory Verse:**

***Praise the LORD. Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who finds great delight in his commands.***

—Psalm 112:1