

A Lesson For Life From Golf

by Wayne Goff

Okay, okay, even if you're not a golf enthusiast, this lesson will be easy for you to digest. So please stay with me, and read on. One of the basics of golf is the need to **improve** and get **better**. This is obvious. But the golfing industry makes billions of dollars, *literally*, every year selling golf equipment and accessories – none of which will help improve your game directly! I can vouch for that personally.

After every round of golf, every golfer has a keen idea of what part of his golf game needs improvement. It seems to never be the same. One week it is the accuracy of his drive off the tee. Another week it is the approach shot with irons. Another week it is putting on the greens. But here is the catch. Often the golfer will decide to go out and purchase expensive equipment to make his golf game better, *when in reality he needs to just go out and practice!*

The golfing industry encourages this by coming out with new and better(?) equipment every year. It takes a strong will to avoid buying that new item that shines like the stars! Now don't get me wrong. There is great advantage to having some of the newer equipment – millions of dollars have been spent on research and development. So if a golfer is playing with 10-year-old clubs, he would be surprised how much easier the game becomes with a much newer, better developed set of clubs. But he still needs to practice, a lot, to improve.

The Application?

Many of us Christians decide to become better Christians. So we go out and buy a new Bible, or new Bible software, maybe a Bible dictionary and concordance, and sometimes even a good set of commentaries. We hear a sermon that arouses our desire, and we are even more determined to be a better Christian. So we go out and buy a nice "outfit" for Sunday! While none of this is bad, and while I encourage all of us to do exactly that, **we still need to read, and practice**. Hearing a sermon won't make us a better Christian until we put it into daily living. Reading God's Word won't help us until we have sufficiently **meditated** upon it to make it our own. So, as Peter wrote, "**giving all diligence, add to your faith...**" (2 Peter 1:5). You can even take a piece of paper with a Scripture to memorize and think about that while you're playing golf! And remember: whether you're trying to get better at golf or life, there's no substitute for practice!

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