

Don't REST Assured—PROVE Your Assurance

True Christians grow in character like Christ 2 Peter 1:8-11 (verses 8-9, part 1) Chris Mueller 11-17-2019

Introduction:

1 Timothy 6:11 But FLEE from these things, you man of God, and PURSUE righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness.

2 Timothy 2:22 Now FLEE from youthful lusts and PURSUE righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

1 Corinthians 6:18 FLEE immorality.

1 Corinthians 10:14 FLEE from idolatry.

1 Corinthians 14:1 PURSUE love.

Hebrews 12:14 PURSUE peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.

2 Corinthians 13:5 Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?

2 Peter 1:8-11 *For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins. Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.*

#1 The NECESSITY of Christlike character

8 *For if these qualities are yours and are increasing*

Psalms 16:11 You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

John 15:11 These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.

Acts 13:52 And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

1st _____ in your life *For if these qualities are yours*

2nd _____ in your life *For if these qualities are yours and are increasing*

1st PRESENT and 2nd GROWING in your life

3rd _____ through your life *they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1 You will grow USEFUL *they render you neither useless*

2 You will grow FRUITFUL *they render you neither useless nor unfruitful*

Matthew 13:22 *The one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.*

Jude 12 *These are the men who are hidden reefs ...clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead.*

Titus 3:14 *Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.*

Matthew 12:33 *For the tree is known by its fruit.*

3 You will grow INTIMATE *in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ*

Spurgeon *Christ! And knowing Him! That's it! That is the genius of Christianity! Christianity is not a dull creed or a sterile set of rules. It is a living, loving Lord. For more than thirty years, He modeled and exemplified the Christian life. All of the things that Peter tells us to add to our lives were present—in their full beauty, fragrance, and loveliness—in His life at all times, from beginning to end. He lived the life. He was the life. Christianity is Christ. These things, the things that Peter lists here, were in Him and abounded in Him. Peter had studied His life day in and day out for three and a half years. He himself now lives that life. The things he tells us to add to our life had been added to and abounded in his life. As a result of his knowledge of Christ, he was neither barren nor unfruitful. His...was...no academic knowledge. It was a knowledge that had transformed his life.*

#2 The DIFFICULTY of lacking Christlike Character

9 *For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins.*

1st You experience a _____ of sight or ALL of sight *is blind or short-sighted,*

Hebrews 12:2 *Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

2nd You experience a spiritual _____
having forgotten his purification from his former sins.

1 You don't earn your salvation, but you do _____ your salvation

2 Are you more _____ or uncertain?

3 Stop offering _____ to anyone who does not fit the scriptural description

4 Pursue _____ with all your heart

QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH IN CHRIST

1. What is wrong with our UNDERSTANDING of assurance of salvation?
2. Why don't believers today think they should have to PROVE their assurance of salvation?
3. Why does Peter say the qualities of verses 5-7 must be present and GROWING in the life of a genuine believer?
4. What does it mean if the qualities of verses 5-7 are NOT growing in the life of a believer? What does it indicate?
5. How do you know when a believer is actually growing USEFUL, FRUITFUL and INTIMATE? What are the indicators?
6. How can you tell if a Christian is experiencing A LOSS OF SIGHT or some sort of SPIRITUAL AMNESIA?
7. How can you tell the difference between a BLIND unbeliever and a SHORTSIGHTED believer?
8. What steps will you take to be more certain of your salvation this week, this month and this year?

*Get the free audio or manuscript from today at media.faith-bible.net and the FBC Church APP or
pick up today's message on a free CD at the book table.*