

Don't REST Assured—PROVE Your Assurance

Assurance as a motivation for spiritual growth 2 Peter 1:8-11 (part 2) Chris Mueller 11-24-2019

Introduction:

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 You must have and _____ in Christlike character

8a For if these qualities are yours and are increasing

1st PRESENT in your life

2nd GROWING in your life

3rd BLESSING through your life

8b they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ

- 1 You grow USEFUL
- 2 You grow FRUITFUL
- 3 You grow INTIMATE

#2 What if you're _____ in Christlike character?

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

1st You'll experience a LOSS of sight or ALL of sight

2nd You'll experience a spiritual AMNESIA

#3 _____ salvation when there is a lack of character

10-11 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.

1st Be diligent to make your assurance _____

10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you

D.A. Carson People do not drift toward holiness. Apart from grace-driven effort, people do not gravitate toward godliness, prayer or obedience to Scripture. We drift toward compromise and call it tolerance; we drift toward disobedience and call it freedom; we drift toward superstition and call it faith. We cherish the indiscipline of lost self-control and call it relaxation; we slouch toward prayerlessness and delude ourselves into thinking we have escaped legalism; we slide toward godlessness and convince ourselves we have been liberated.

1:5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge.
1:10 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.
1:15 And I will also be diligent that at any time after my departure you will be able to call these things to mind.
3:14 Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless.

SECURITY is the Holy Spirit revealed fact that salvation is forever.
But ASSURANCE is one's confidence that he or she possesses that eternal salvation.

CALLED Romans 8:30 These whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

CHOSEN Ephesians 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love...

SPURGEON I reply, because calling is first to us. The first thing you and I can know is our calling: we cannot tell whether we are elect until we feel we are called. We must, first of all, prove our calling, and then our election is sure most certainly. Calling comes first in our apprehension. We are by God's Spirit called from our evil estate, regenerated and made new creatures, and then, looking backward, we behold ourselves as being most assuredly elect because we were called.

2nd Be aggressive to pursue Christlike _____

10b for as long as you practice these things

3rd Be encouraged by the _____ of assurance

10c you will never stumble

4th Be motivated by God's _____ when assured

11 for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you

Revelation 22:12 Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.

TAKE HOME:

A – PROVING your ASSURANCE comes _____ being born again

B – PROVING your ASSURANCE comes through _____ to become like Christ

C – PROVING your ASSURANCE results in _____ now and forever

QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH IN CHRIST

1. How do most Christians MISUNDERSTAND the doctrine of assurance of salvation? What is the biblical view?
2. Why would Peter, in 2 Peter 1, want believers to GROW and not LACK in Christian character?
3. If God is SOVEREIGN, then why must believers be DILIGENT to pursue Christlike character?
4. What is the downside to not being CERTAIN of your salvation?
5. What are the benefits for a believer when they are CERTAIN of their salvation?
6. What does it mean PRACTICALLY, in everyday life, to aggressively grow certain of your salvation?
7. Why does Peter teach so much about assurance of salvation in this second letter?
8. What steps will you take to be more certain of your salvation this week, this month and this year?

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