

2 Peter 1:10-15

The Blessings of Growth

In 2 Peter 1:10-15, Peter mentions three blessings that continual spiritual growth brings. When we are growing in grace, we can have full assurance of our salvation, we can look forward to a wonderful entrance into heaven, without regrets, and we are protected against spiritual amnesia by a continual remembrance of the truth.

I. Full _____ (2 Peter 1:10)

- The Biblical doctrine of election is that God has _____ to save only those people who place their faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ for salvation. (*Eph. 1:11-13; 1 Peter 1:2*)
- Our salvation is not based upon our works, but the _____ of our salvation is a life filled with good works. (*James 2:17-18*)
- It is the Holy Spirit that works in us as we submit to Him to give us the peace and _____ that we are indeed saved. (*Romans 8:15-16*)
- Disobedience leads to _____. Obedience leads to assurance. (*1 John 2:3*)
- When we diligently add to our faith Christ-like character and are sure of our salvation, we also protect ourselves against _____ away from the Lord. (*Proverbs 24:16*)

• II. A Wonderful _____ (2 Peter 1:11)

- Our entrance to heaven was made possible by _____. (*John 14:2-3*)
- This verse is discussing what _____ of entrance we will have, not if we will have an entrance. All those who are saved will go to heaven, but not all will have the same entrance. (*1 Corinthians 3:13-15*)
- Mature, fruitful Christians can look forward to a wonderful entrance into heaven and not _____ on their rewards.
- There is nothing wrong with looking forward to the _____ that God has promised. (*Philippians 3:14; Matthew 6:4; 25:23*)

III. Continual _____ (2 Peter 1:12-15)

- _____ and reinforcements are keys to learning. We all need to be reminded of things frequently because we have a tendency to forget. (*1 Timothy 4:6*)
- One of the hallmarks of Christian maturity is the ability to stand firm on the truth on _____ . (*Ephesians 4:13-14*)
- We need to become firm and _____ in truth of the word of God. (*Colossians 2:7*)

Conclusion

Growing in grace results in a fruitful life that glorifies God, and it also blesses us in many ways. When we are growing, we have full assurance of our salvation, we can look forward to a wonderful entrance into eternity, and we are blessed with a continual remembrance of the truth. It is good for us, then, to keep growing, because it glorifies God and it _____ us.

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You can tell as you read his writings that Peter had the heart of a pastor. Jesus had commanded Peter, “Feed my sheep.” He instructed Peter, “and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.” In this last letter that Peter wrote, he knew that his time to die was coming soon and he wanted to remind the believers to keep growing in grace and knowledge by diligently adding to their faith Christ-like character.

In 2 Peter 1:10-15, Peter mentions three blessings that continual spiritual growth brings. When we are growing in grace, we can have full assurance of our salvation. We can look forward to a wonderful entrance into heaven, without regrets. We are protected against spiritual amnesia by a continual remembrance of the truth.

I. Full Assurance

2 Peter 1:10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

To “give diligence” means to “to exert one’s self, endeavour.” Instead of allowing ourselves to become being spiritually blind and forgetful, we are to spare no effort in adding to our faith (2 Peter 1:5) and making sure of our salvation.

How can we know for sure that we are “called” and “elected.” There are those who teach that the doctrine of election means that God chose certain people to be saved and others to remain lost. According to this teaching, those who are “elect” have no choice in their salvation. They are regenerated by the Holy Spirit Who then imparts saving faith to them which they exercise not by their own free will but because of God’s sovereign decrees. If this were true, why would it be necessary to make our calling and election sure and how could we if we were saved without any active involvement on our part?

Peter’s instruction only makes sense when you understand that the Biblical doctrine of election has nothing to do with who can and cannot have faith in Christ. The Biblical doctrine of election is that God has chosen to save only those people who place their faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ for salvation. Since God has known from eternity past who would trust Christ, it can rightly be said those who are saved are “elect according to the foreknowledge of God.”

Ephesians 1:11-13 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: [12] That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. [13] In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

If we are saved, then there will be definite evidence of that in our lives.

James 2:17-18 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. [18] Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

Our salvation is not based upon our works, but the demonstration of our salvation is a life filled with good works. Our own assurance of salvation, then, will be dependent on our spiritual growth. If we do not add to our faith, then we are in danger of spiritual blindness and even forgetting that we have been purged from our old sins. (2 Peter 1:9) If we are diligently growing, then we can have

assurance of our salvation. “It is our progression in the faith that gives us assurance.” (Warren Wiersbe)

But we must not make the mistake of thinking that our effort is what produces the assurance. It is the Holy Spirit that works in us as we submit to Him to give us the peace and confidence that we are indeed saved.

Romans 8:15-16 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. [16] The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

But when we are spiritually immature and disobedient to God’s commands, we invite that spiritual blindness and forgetfulness that can cause us to doubt our salvation. Disobedience leads to doubt. Obedience leads to assurance.

1 John 2:3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

When we diligently add to our faith Christ-like character and are sure of our salvation, we also protect ourselves against backsliding away from the Lord. “For if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.” That does not mean that we will never mess up, but that we will continue our spiritual progress.

Proverbs 24:16 For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.

Our diligent effort does not save us and it does not keep us saved. But by obeying God and growing grace and knowledge, we continue to move toward Christ-likeness and the Holy Spirit’s ministry of assurance is unhindered in our lives so that we can remain sure of our salvation.

II. A Wonderful Entrance

2 Peter 1:11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Does verse eleven teach that whether we get into heaven or not is based on how diligently we work? The wording is challenging, to be sure, but if we take a moment to think it through, the meaning becomes clear?

First, the “entrance” is something ministered to us. It is not something we achieve for ourselves, it is something given. Our entrance to heaven was made possible by Jesus Christ. He said, “I go and prepare a place for you.” (John 14:2-3)

Second, the use of the phrase “everlasting kingdom” is one that reminds us of the reward it will be to be in heaven, where we will “reign with Him.” (2 Timothy 2:12)

Third, this verse is discussing what kind of entrance we will have, not if we will have an entrance. All those who are saved will go to heaven, but not all will have the same entrance. At the Judgment Seat of Christ, some will be rewarded and some will suffer the loss of reward. Those who lose rewards will be saved, “yet so as by fire.”

1 Corinthians 3:13-15 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. [14] If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. [15] If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

The word translated “shall be ministered” is the same word that is translated “add” in 2 Peter 1:5. If you diligently add to your faith the character of Christ, you will not only have assurance of salvation, but you will be given a happy entrance to heaven. This verse is about the kind of entrance

we will have in to heaven, and mature, fruitful Christians can look forward to a wonderful entrance into heaven and not losing out on their rewards.

Those who are diligent in the work of religion shall have a triumphant entrance into glory; while of those few who get to heaven some are scarcely saved (1Pe 4:18), with a great deal of difficulty, even as by fire (1Co 3:15), those who are growing in grace, and abounding in the work of the Lord, shall have an abundant entrance into the joy of their Lord, even that everlasting kingdom where Christ reigns, and they shall reign with him for ever and ever. (Matthew Henry)

There is nothing wrong with looking forward to the rewards that God has promised. Paul said, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:14) Jesus promised, "thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly." (Matthew 6:4) It should be the goal of every Christian to be able to hear God say to us, "Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord." (Matthew 25:23)

III. Continual Remembrance

2 Peter 1:12-15 Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. [13] Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance; [14] Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me. [15] Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance.

Because Peter wanted the believers to be growing, fruitful Christians, he did not neglect to remind them of the truth that they already knew and had been grounded in. Repetition and reinforcements are keys to learning. We all need to be reminded of things frequently because we have a tendency to forget and one of the jobs of a pastor is to remind God's people of the truth.

1 Timothy 4:6 If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.

Peter went so far as to say that as long as he was alive he would encourage them to remember the truth, because he knew that he did not have that much longer to live. Jesus had told Peter that he would become a martyr for the faith and it had been many years since that day on the shores of Galilee.

John 21:18-19 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not. [19] This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.

But Peter was thinking even beyond his own death, so that time after his martyrdom when he would present to be able to remind the saints of anything. He wanted to impress the truth upon them so clearly and firmly that they would always remember it. Their faith could not be dependent on his reminders. They had to be able to stand for the truth without him. One of the hallmarks of Christian maturity is the ability to stand firm on the truth on your own.

Ephesians 4:13-14 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: [14] That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

Paul used the expression “stablished in the faith” to describe this same idea. “Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.” (Colossians 2:7) We need to become firm and settled in truth of the word of God. Some would call that dogmatic or closed minded. We should be closed minded to lies. We should be dogmatic about the truth. A blessing of spiritual growth is that you become a mature Christian who remembers what is true and believes what is true, no matter the opposition or temptation.

Conclusion

Growing in grace results in a fruitful life that glorifies God, and it also blesses us in many ways. When we are growing, we have full assurance of our salvation, we can look forward to a wonderful entrance into eternity, and we are blessed with a continual remembrance of the truth. It is good for us, then, to keep growing, because it glorifies God and it blesses us.