

Studies in 2 Peter

Building Upon Your Faith (2)

*“If these things are yours...”*

**2 Peter 1:5-11**

## 2 Peter - Previously

- In our last lesson, we addressed the “Christian graces” that Peter mentioned that we are to build upon our faith.



Love - 1 Corinthians 13
Brotherly kindness - Romans 12:10
Godliness - 1 Timothy 4:7-8
Perseverance - Galatians 6:9
Self-control - 1 Corinthians 9:24-27
Knowledge - Romans 10:17
Virtue - cf. Acts 4:17-21
Faith - Hebrews 11:1, 6

In this lesson, we want to notice the results.

## If these things are yours... 1:8

- A term meaning, “at your disposal” or available to you.  
The term also implies possession.
- Will we accept these “graces” and resolve to develop them?

## If these things are yours... 1:8

- Abounding - indicating abundance -  
**1 Corinthians 15:58**  
**2 Thessalonians 1:3**  
**Colossians 2:6-7, 3:16** - let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.
- We should be doing more than “just enough to get by”

## Neither barren nor unfruitful- 1:5

- We are called upon to be productive – **John 14:1-2, Ephesians 5:15-17** – “redeeming the time”
- Barren – useless, idle. **Matthew 12:36, 20:3, 6** – parable of the laborers; **cf. Titus 1:12** (lazy)
- Unfruitful – **Matthew 13:22** – the thorny ground. **Titus 3:14, Ephesians 5:11** – unfruitful works of darkness

## Neither barren nor unfruitful- 1:5

- *In the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ –*
  - Recall Peter's admonitions to add knowledge to our virtuous faith!
    - His word will ground us in developing godly qualities and protecting us from the false teacher.
- Philippians 3:10** – Paul desired to “know Him and the power of His resurrection...”

## He who lacks these things - 1:9

- IF these “graces” are not present...
- We are “shortsighted” – “nearsighted”. All one sees clearly is what is directly in front of him.  
A failure to see the “big picture”
- **Luke 8:13** – like the thorny soil, he has no root!

## He who lacks these things - 1:9

- Shortsighted, “even to blindness” – totally devoid of sight!  
**Matthew 23:16, 15:14** – “blind guides”, “blind leaders of the blind”
- **2 Corinthians 4:3-4** – the gospel is veiled, blinded by “the god of this age”
- **Matthew 6:22-23** – the lamp of the body is the eye... It reflects what is in the heart!
- **Revelation 3:17** – the Laodiceans were blind and told to repent and heal themselves.



## He who lacks these things - 1:9

- He has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins  
A continued reminder of WHY he has hope in this life is missing or “put on the back burner”.
- **Hebrews 2:1ff** – we must beware lest we drift
- Perhaps a reason for our weekly reminder – **Acts 20:7, 1 Corinthians 11:23-29, etc.**
- **1 Corinthians 15:10, 1 Timothy 1:15**
- **Romans 6:1-4, 1 Corinthians 6:11**

## Make your call and election sure - 1:10

- *Be even more diligent* – keep pressing on!  
Both developing godly qualities AND avoiding the results of failed efforts
- *Call* (or election) – a “divine invitation” extended to us to embrace salvation in His kingdom.
- **Ephesians 4:1, 4; Philippians 3:14, 2  
Thessalonians 1:11, 2 Timothy 1:8-9, 1  
Peter 1:15, 2:21, etc.**

## Make your call and election sure - 1:10

- *Election* – to be chosen as part of a group that receives salvation
- NOT miraculous or involuntary. This is about a pattern God has established that we strive to conform to.  
Salvation is available to everyone!  
**John 3:16, 1 Timothy 2:4, etc.**
- *Sure* – verified or certain! NOTE how Peter emphasizes we have a part to receive our salvation

## For if you do these things - 1:10-11

- *IF you do these things* – again, conditional!
- You will never stumble!  
The ultimate point is that you will not fall away!  
However, the word means “to miss a step”, to nearly fall! Always used this way in other texts!  
**Romans 11:11, James 2:10, 3:2.**
- It is my belief the term means that if we PERFECT ALL of the above “graces”, we will be so insulated against error we will not even stumble.
- BUT, none of us is perfect!

## For if you do these things - 1:10-11

- *So an entrance will be supplied* – we should not strive to “barely make it” into heaven!  
We press toward the goal – **Philippians 3:12-14, 1 Corinthians 15:58**  
EVERY strong example of faith!
- Of course, the reward will be worth the sacrifice!  
**2 Corinthians 4:16-18,**  
**Romans 8:18**
- We must never forget our life has purpose –  
heaven! **Cf. Psalm 23:6**

Are you building  
your faith with  
hope?

Let us pray!