

SALVATION'S CERTAINTY

(2 Peter 1:5-11)

- I. The Command for Spiritual Growth (2 Peter 1:5-7)
 - A. The effort prescribed (1:5a)
 - 1. Requires an urgent and eager application of energy
 - 2. Accompanies “your faith”
 - 3. Requires personally providing something lacking
 - B. The virtues pursued (1:5b-7)
 - 1. [The] Moral Excellence: biblically upright moral character
 - 2. [The] Knowledge: practical discernment between right and wrong
 - 3. [The] Self-control: restraining one’s own desires
 - 4. [The] Perseverance: remaining strong in unwelcome toil and hardship
 - 5. [The] Godliness: reverent attitude that seeks to please God in all things
 - 6. [The] Brotherly Kindness: affection for other believers demonstrated by acts of kindness
 - 7. [The] Love: purposefully seeking the wellbeing of the one loved
- II. The INCENTIVES for Spiritual Growth (2 Peter 1:8-9)
 - A. If one POSSESSES and INCREASES in these qualities...
 - 1. He will NOT be USELESS
 - 2. He will NOT be FRUITLESS
 - 3. Both pertaining to the “TRUE KNOWLEDGE of our Lord Jesus Christ”
 - B. If these qualities are ABSENT from one’s life...
 - 1. He is BLIND or NEAR-SIGHTED

2. He has FORGOTTEN his PURIFICATION from former sins

[IIb. Possible CAUSES for a Lack of Assurance

- A. Constant preaching that does not balance CONFRONTATION with COMFORT
- B. Feeling that they are too SINFUL to be FORGIVEN
- C. Believing that salvation is assured by their PERFORMANCE
- D. Unable to remember the EVENT of one's salvation
- E. Continuing to struggle with TEMPTATION and FAILURE
- F. Failing to see God's hand in their TRIALS
- G. Fail to walk in the SPIRIT

[IIc. Several BENEFITS of Assurance

- A. Causes the heart to live in the fullness of JOY
- B. Encourages the soul to seek God's PURPOSES above all else
- C. Produces in the believer a spirit of GRATITUDE and PRAISE
- D. Strengthens the soul against TEMPTATIONS and TRIALS
- E. Motivates the believer to live in OBEDIENCE
- F. Calms the believer's spirit with PEACE and REST in the midst of life's storms
- G. Enables the believer to wait PATIENTLY for God's perfect TIMING
- H. PURIFIES the believer's heart (1 John 3:2b-3)