

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
 - 4. Describes our experiential sanctification
 - 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 Pet. 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)

III. The BENEFITS of Spiritual Growth (2 Peter 1:10-11)

- A. Necessary for personal ASSURANCE (1:10a)
 - 1. Requires personal DILIGENCE
 - 2. Results in CONFIDENCE of God's CALLING and CHOOSING of YOU
- B. Produces personal STABILITY (1:10b)
 - 1. Possibly a promise of PERSEVERANCE
 - 2. Probably a promise of CONFIDENCE
- C. Promises personal GLORY (1:11)
 - 1. Not EARNED by one's EFFORT
 - 2. But CONFIRMED by one's EFFORT