

Adding to Your Faith

2 Peter 1:4-11

"When I forget who I am in Christ, I quit pursuing what belongs to me in Christ. I'll seek meaning and purpose in horizontal things, because I'm not getting my identity vertically. When I'm not pursuing Christ as the only source of my identity, I won't be producing as much fruit as I should... What is godliness? It's a God-honoring life between the time I come to Christ and the time I go home to be with Him. And Christ has already given me everything I need for it! Yes, we face the harsh realities of life in a fallen world, and yes, we still struggle with indwelling sin. But because of my relationship with Christ, I have been given a Warrior Spirit that lives inside of me. He fights on my behalf and enables me to produce good fruit: faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection, and love (2 Peter 1:5-7).

This passage is describing the 'here and now' benefits of our salvation. Listen, it's not enough for us to believe in life after death - we need to start believing in life before death. If we understand our identity that we've been given in Christ, we can live filled with hope and courage. Christ has not just forgiven you. He has completely and fundamentally changed who you are, and because of that, you can live in a very new and different way. If you remember that in your marriage, if you remember that in your job, if you remember that as you face the situations and relationships of life, it will make a tremendous difference in the way that you live. You'll begin to produce new and surprising fruit, and you'll be used by God to help others remember their identity." Paul Tripp

- I. Upon salvation, we are given a **supernatural power** that enables us to participate in Christ's divine nature. He doesn't force to utilize his power and join him in changing us more and more into his image, but he does command us to make every effort to do so as redeemed, justified, sanctified children of God. Apathy or laziness toward our calling to be holy will sadly keep us ineffective and unproductive in our knowledge of him and all that he has done for us. In fact, it puts us in danger of becoming captive, ignorant, and blind to the corruption of this world caused by evil desires.

2 Peter 2:3-4
Eph. 1:17-20

Eph. 3:16-17 *I pray that out of his glorious riches he may **strengthen you with power** through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.*

- II. The integrity and surety of God's promises should compel us to put into practice the attributes of our faith in increasing measure as we mature in him. It is something we are to diligently strive for to keep us from being ineffective and unproductive in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. How that works out in our lives greatly depends on thinking through each attribute, assessing where we stand in putting into practice each attribute and having a willingness to put into practice the attributes, we lack in. That's what it means to make our calling and election sure.

2 Peter 1:5-7

Phil. 3:12

***Add to your faith** - Επιχορηγησατε: Lead up hand in hand; alluding, as most think, to the chorus in the Grecian dance, who danced with joined hands.*

***Phil 2:12-13** Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

- III. The reason we are commanded to add to our faith virtues that will keep us from being ineffective and unproductive in our Christians walk is so that we won't fall into thinking and acting like we did before we came to know him. It is possible, if we are not careful, to deliberately close our eyes and become blind to what it means to conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel. Sadly, there are some who will enter Christ's eternal kingdom receiving nothing but their salvation. And the question is, are the eternal consequences worth it?

1 Peter 1:8-10

Phil. 1:27

1 Cor. 3:10-15

***μυωπάζω myōpázō** "to be short-sighted" (muo, "to shut," ops, "the eye;" cp. Eng., "myopy," "myopic:" the root mu signifies a sound made with closed lips, e.g., in the words "mutter," "mute"), occurs in 2Pe 1:9, RV, "seeing only what is near" (AV, "and cannot see afar off"); this does not contradict the preceding word "blind," it qualifies it; he of whom it is true is blind in that he cannot discern spiritual things, he is near-sighted in that he is occupied in regarding worldly affairs. (Vine's)*

***πταίω ptaíō**, to trip, i.e. (figuratively) to err, sin, fail (of salvation):—fall, offend, stumble.*