



God's Benefits of Consistent Spiritual Growth

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Kick Start:

How did God speak to you through this message?

Main Point:

The believer who is not idle but diligently pursues spiritual growth, and lives a faithful, fruitful life, will not only enjoy assurance and benefits in the present, but a triumphant entry into the future life.

Introduction:

Every promise God gives to us is precious because we can be confident He always keeps them. Without them we have no real assurance about anything, no hope, no comfort, no direction, no safety, no purpose and no encouragement. But God has given us everything we need to live godly lives and on top of that, He gives us four special benefits for diligent Christian growth.

Message Outline:

I. A Fruitful Life and Ministry

With these virtues increasing in one's life (vv. 5–7), a Christian will not be useless or ineffective, nor unfruitful. When these Christian qualities are not present in a believer's life they will be indistinguishable from a non-believer or a superficial believer.

2 Peter 1:8

Talk About It:

1. How does the concept of being "ineffective and unfruitful" challenge your current spiritual practices and priorities?
2. How have you seen the virtues in vv. 5-7 increasing in your life since you became a believer?
3. In John 15:5, what do you think of when you hear the word "abide" or "remain?" Are these things that come naturally to you, or do they take active effort on your part?
4. Is it possible to believe in Jesus but refuse to remain (abide) in Him?
5. Jesus speaks about removing the branches that do not bear fruit. If comfortable, share with the group about a time you have felt you have been pruned. How did it lead to growth?
6. How do the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23 relate to the qualities Peter encourages us to develop?

II. A Focused Vision

If we fail to use these virtues, we have become so nearsighted that we are as good as blind. We are living as if we were unbelievers, who really are blind, spiritually. A Christian preoccupied with the short-term—the moment immediately in front of them—has lost the ability to see life from any kind of eternal perspective.

2 Peter 1:9

Talk About It:

1. What might spiritual blindness “nearsighted” look like in a believer?
2. What would be the consequences for a “nearsighted” believer?
3. What does Peter imply about our forgetfulness of past sins?
4. How can we ensure that we remember our "cleansing from past sins" daily?

III. A Firm Assurance

Though God is “sure” who His elect are and has given them an eternally secure salvation, the Christian might not always have assurance of his salvation. The believer who pursues the spiritual qualities of vv. 5-7 guarantees to themselves by spiritual fruit that they were called and chosen by God to salvation. They will not stumble into doubt, despair, fear, or questioning, or sinful patterns but enjoy assurance that they are saved.

*“It is not our **profession of faith** that guarantees that we are saved; it is our **progression in the faith** that gives us that assurance.”* – Warren Weirsbe

2 Peter 1:10

Talk About It:

1. When you struggle with sin or doubt, why is it important to remind yourself that your salvation rests on Christ’s finished work and not your performance?
2. Where do you see evidence of the Holy Spirit’s transforming work—new desires, repentance, and spiritual fruit—in your life?
3. Why is it important to distinguish between temporary struggles with sin and a lifestyle of unrepentant sin when thinking about assurance of salvation?
4. What are some ways we can discern genuine saving faith in our lives?

IV. A Future Reward

If you are working as diligently as you can to “supply” these character qualities in vv. 5-7, then God will generously supply an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Every step of perseverance you take today is moving toward that unfading, eternal kingdom where Jesus Himself stands ready to welcome you home.

2 Peter 1:11

Talk About It:

1. How does this verse encourage perseverance in your Christian walk today?
2. How can the hope of entering the eternal kingdom motivate you to live a life that reflects the character and love of Jesus Christ? What does that look like in your life?

Conclusion:

Think to the Olympic games when a marathon runner returns to the stadium to hear the roar of the crowd encouraging them to finish strong. Similarly, when you leave earth and enter the stadium of heaven, you'll hear the countless redeemed welcoming you. When we make every effort to add to our faith, the One who loved you and died for you will lavishly provide for your entrance into heaven.

Make It Practical:

PREPARING FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

Peter loves his fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. He knows his life will soon be over and wants them to be diligent in growing their faith, pursuing Christlike character, keeping spiritual disciplines, guarding their walk from false teaching, and living forward to the day when our Savior welcomes us—richly—into His eternal kingdom. Let's do our part to prepare to meet Him with a fruitful life, a focused vision and a firm assurance.

Understand the Kingdom Being Prepared for You

- Eternal — unending, incorruptible (1 Peter 1:4)
- Christ's personal realm — sin has no place at all in His kingdom (Ephesians 5:5)
- We're already removed from sin (Colossians 1:13) yet awaiting full revelation (2 Peter 3:13)

Cultivating the Qualities That Secure an Entrance

- Faith → believe God's Word without reserve (Hebrews 11:6)
- Goodness → reflect God's moral excellence in daily choices (Matthew 5:16)
- Knowledge → grow in sound doctrine and discernment (Colossians 1:10)
- Self-control → master desires with Spirit power (Galatians 5:23)
- Perseverance → remain steady under trials (James 1:12)
- Godliness → live reverently before God (1 Timothy 4:8)
- Brotherly Affection → practice family-like love inside the church (Romans 12:10)
- Love → self-sacrificial concern for all (1 Corinthians 13:13)

Practices That Keep You Sure-Footed

- Daily Scripture intake—Psalm 119:105
- Persistent prayer—1 Thessalonians 5:17
- Active fellowship—Hebrews 10:24-25
- Regular remembrance of Christ's work—1 Corinthians 11:26
- Service with eternal motives—1 Corinthians 15:58
- Generous giving toward kingdom purposes—Matthew 6:20

Guard Against Obstacles

- False teaching—2 Peter 2:1
- Worldly entanglements—2 Timothy 2:4
- Spiritual complacency—Revelation 3:15-16

- Unconfessed sin—Psalm 66:18

Live with Anticipation

- Fix hope “fully on the grace to be given you at the revelation of Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 1:13)
- Eagerly await the Savior—Philippians 3:20
- Proclaim the gospel so others share the entrance—2 Corinthians 5:20
- Long for righteousness to fill creation—2 Peter 3:13
- Remain watchful—Luke 12:35-37

Prayer Points:

- We thank you for giving us our precious faith.
- Thank you for your grace in benefiting us further with a focus on eternity, a firm assurance because of your work not ours, and a lavish future welcome into eternity.
- Help us to be diligent, adding to our faith.
- Help us to live lives of daily preparation for your Kingdom
- Pray for the needs of the group