

Women's Bible Study

2Peter 1:10-11

Read 2Peter 1:1-9.

Verse 10 – **Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.**

Therefore, brethren. Consequently, or the conclusion; seeing these qualities in your lives and the danger posed to them who reject the Gospel, there is action needed. There is an exhortation given in 2Peter 1:5-9, there is a clear difference between those who have the graces of God and those who do not. This should cause a response in us. ***Are you certain your faith will stand? Has it been built on the firm foundation of God's word? Are you seeking to grow in the graces of God as a proof of your salvation?*** Our salvation is not earned by works yet it is the cause of good works in us.

2Peter 3:17 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness,

Ephesians 4:14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

Be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you.

Think what it means to be diligent in something. It takes effort. According to Strong's Greek Dictionary this word means to make effort, be prompt or earnest, to endeavor, labour, study.

2Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

2Peter 3:14 Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless,

The *Geneva Bible Notes* gives this insight: “Therefore seeing our calling and election is approved by those fruits, and is confirmed in us, and moreover seeing this is the only way to the everlasting kingdom of Christ, it remains that we set our minds wholly on that way”.

It was God who chose you from darkness into His light. It was His work in your heart which caused you to respond to His grace. This is solely a gift offered to you because of His great love for you. **You have been handed a priceless gift, what will you do with it? Do you have to dig through a box of many other forgotten treasures to find it?**

Picture a toddler’s well-loved ‘stuffie’ or ‘blankie’. For a time, this prized possession goes everywhere with them. It puts a smile on their face, and holding it makes them feel secure and comforted. There is absolutely nothing which can take its place and it becomes well-worn with copious amounts of love. God is our comfort, He is our strength, His commands are our guide and following them not only confirms our relationship as His child but also keeps us from falling into sin. **Is your faith well-worn? Do your words and actions confirm your profession? Do you see the effect of your faith in your life?**

For as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble.

This is God’s promise to us – when we follow Him we will not fall into sin. Consider the many times you have used the wrong words or didn’t have the best motivation. Our sin can always be traced back to having taken our eyes off Jesus. In that moment when we think we are able to manage things ourselves, our flesh and sin takes over and controls our words and actions. Yet, God’s forgiveness is far reaching and if we are striving to live for Him, even though we momentarily may fail, the salvation granted to us through His death and resurrection remains secure. We most definitely, in no way, will fall from His grace.

“If ye are thus diligent to make your election firm, ye shall never finally fall”, John Wesley’s Notes on the Old and New Testaments.

“God will support you with communications of grace, suitable to any extraordinary trial to which you may be called, till the whole is brought to a happy issue and conclusion”, Philip Doddridge N.T.

Hebrews 6:11,19 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, (19) This hope

we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil,

1John 3:19-21 We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God;

Matthew 7:24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. "And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock.

Take a closer look at the phrase, ***“as long as you practice these things”***. The KJV reads, *“if you do these things”*, translated from the word *poieo* in *Strong’s Greek Dictionary*. It means to commit to something, to continue in something, without any delay, to exercise, to perform, to purpose.

You may be an excellent swimmer, or musician, or artist, however, if you do not diligently purpose to practice your skill, you will not retain what you have learned and in fact you will be unable to perform at the same level as when you gave it particular attention. We are to continuously practice the qualities of our faith. Then we will grow in our application of self-control, perseverance, and godliness. Consider what you do to gain an improved skill or understanding of something. It takes time, concerted effort, desire, and discipline.

How are you practicing your faith?

Luke 6:47-49 "Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and acts on them, I will show you whom he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock; and when a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. "But the one who has heard and has not acted accordingly, is like a man who built a house on the ground without any foundation; and the torrent burst against it and immediately it collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great."

Psalm 37:24 When he falls, he will not be hurled headlong, Because the LORD is the One who holds his hand.

Putting off sin and putting on righteousness is evidence of our salvation. It is this evidence we see in our lives which causes us to be reassured of our future with Christ.

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Are you certain of your salvation?

2Peter 1:11 for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

The Apostle gives the reason, or explanation, of why it is necessary to be diligent regarding their faith. Exercising the graces listed in 2Peter 1:5-7 gives evidence of our salvation, keeps us from stumbling, and is proof of our eternal future. The message is not maybe you will enter heaven but certainly you will – this is a strong encouragement to continue on in God’s grace. Think of learning a skill which is difficult or perhaps being part of a competitive sports team. There is sacrifice, sometimes discouragement, and often painstaking effort involved to achieve a certain level. The willingness to pursue through the trials is the end result. This is our motivation to continue. Growing in faith, in the virtues of a true believer, standing up when beaten down, pursuing truth when the world disagrees, and keeping focused on God’s glory while holding on to His promise of eternal life, is our purpose to move forward.

“As obedience to God is proof of being chosen and born of him, all who hear the gospel are bound, by believing and obeying it, to prove that they are elected, and will through grace be saved”, Family Bible Notes.

I can recall going on several hiking trips where the path becomes so difficult, your muscles are absolutely spent to the point of your legs shaking and feeling so weak that you wonder if they will support your next step, there is no sign of rest ahead, and you simply want to sit down and give up. Yet, with the

encouragement of others and the promise of reaching the goal, somehow you muster the strength to keep going.

As we walk along this path to growing in holiness we are never alone. God is alongside us every step of the way. His desire is for us to pursue through difficulties, dependent on His grace, all the while looking toward His promises of the future He has planned for us. Imagine the truth of these words, ***“the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you”***.

The one key to Heaven is held by our Savior. Through Jesus alone we will enter into His kingdom. It is important to stop here and be reminded that all effort and pursuit we might display towards living a life pleasing to God will count as nothing if we haven't placed our complete trust in Christ alone. On our own we are unworthy. It is through Jesus' death and resurrection that the key to heaven is available to those who believe. The proof of our salvation is God's grace abounding in our lives.

“Abundantly; or richly: while ye minister, or add one grace to another, one good work to another, 2Peter 1:5, &c., God likewise will minister, (the same word is here used as (2Peter 1:5), or add largely or richly, the supplies of the Spirit, in grace, and strength, and consolation, and whatsoever is needful for you in the way, whereby your faith may be increased, your joy promoted, and your perseverance secured, till ye come into the possession of the everlasting kingdom”, Poole.

Think! You are being prepared to enter God's heavenly kingdom. This is an incredible thought, one which we can hardly grasp the full meaning of. ***Do you possess full assurance of your faith? Do you have certain hope for your future? How are you preparing to meet your Savior face to face?***

Matthew 25:34 "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

2Timothy 4:8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.