

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

II Peter

Lesson 2

2 Peter 1:8-14

(return pages 6 & 7)

Stirring up you memory

At the age of thirty, Russ, just a regular guy, decided that for the sake of his future health, he would have to make lifestyle changes. He would change his diet, and he'd add exercise to his routine. Now, at age sixty, Russ is in good health and has avoided the heart attacks and other health problems that plague many men his age. What was Russ's secret of success? He realized that maintaining a healthy body is an ongoing process. Russ continually exercised and watched his food intake. So today he is a healthy, active middle-aged man. And he continues to watch his diet and exercise.

Like Russ's battle against poor health, the Christian life is in the present tense. Spiritual growth is an ongoing process, and we must never give up on the process, never be satisfied with our present level of spiritual maturity. We Christians need to view the present in the light of the future. God saved us and empowered us for two reasons: (1) to grow spiritually to fulfill His purpose in the present for us and (2) to prepare for our entrance into His presence in the future. While we can live and grow only today, we live today in the light of tomorrow.

Neither Barren nor Unfruitful

Peter urged his readers to involve themselves seriously in the development of those virtues, or Christian character (2 Peter 1:5-7), and he pointed out the abundant spiritual harvest to reap by doing so (v. 8).

All of us believers should have these spiritual qualities under development in our lives at any given time, even when we are giving special attention to one or two of them. Our experiences in life constantly present us with challenges that help to move our spiritual maturity along (James 1:2-4).

Peter identified two outcomes of flourishing in Christian character. "Barren" means "ineffective." Peter stated a positive with the use of a negative statement. He was saying, in other words, that we will be effective. Our lives will exhibit the effectiveness of God's power.

"Unfruitful" means "unproductive." Peter again stated a positive with the use of a negative. In other words, if these qualities abound in us, we will be productive. Just as oranges are visible, or evident, on an orange tree during their season, so these character traits will be evident in our lives.

When a child matures normally, he grows physically, mentally, and emotionally, and his character develops. For the Christian "child" there is an added dimension, spiritual character development. The virtues of character about which Peter wrote are aspects of spiritual maturity for us. The development of these character traits parallels the production of the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-25).

Spiritual maturity begins and develops with knowing Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:8). "Knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" refers to the relationship that we have with God and in which we know Him truly and personally (vv. 2, 3).

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Myopia and Amnesia

Peter drew a contrast between the believer who flourishes in his maturity and the believer whose growth seems stunted (2 Peter 1:9). The latter experiences spiritual myopia, for he can see only what is near. He is blind to what lies in the future. He also has forgotten why he was cleansed from his sins. Spiritual myopia is compounded with spiritual amnesia.

Believers diagnosed to be suffering from these spiritual ills are concerned only for the here and now. They do not view the things of today in the light of God's ongoing purpose for them. Their lack of a diligent commitment to spiritual maturity becomes quite evident.

Scripture Memorization verse meditate on this verse often. GOD has chosen and called us because of HIS eternal purpose, which will never fail.



2 Pet 1:10

10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

(KJV)

And Knowledge.....

Read the following verses as you study 2 Peter 1: 8-14 this week

Luke 22: 32

Philippians 1: 6; 2: 12, 13

Galatians 5: 22-25

2 Thessalonians 2: 13-15

Peter implied that the Christians who are progressing in character development see the end of the way (v. 9). They see the ultimate purpose for their redemption, which is conformity to the image of Christ (Romans 8:29). Paul assured us that God who has "*begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ*" (Philippians 1:6).

Maturing Christians also remember that they were cleansed from their sins to mature spiritually as they move toward the ultimate goal. They view the things of today in the light of the past and the future.

Make Sure

Peter called for decisive action by Christians (2 Peter 1:10), since spiritual myopia and amnesia are progressive unless reversed. He exhorted all believers to make their salvation certain. We do this by diligently developing Christian character traits in our lives (vs. 5-7). Peter was urging us believers to facilitate the purpose for which we were saved. His words parallel Paul's admonition to "*work out your own salvation with fear and trembling*" (Philippians 2:12).

God is sure, or certain, for His eternal purposes cannot be thwarted (Romans 8:1) However, we must make our salvation sure in our own hearts and minds (2 Peter 1:10). Christian character development within the setting of godly living makes our salvation certain for us.

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Calling and Election

In speaking of our salvation, Peter referred to our calling and election (2 Peter 1:10). Our "calling" refers to God's effective invitation to us as sinners to receive HIS salvation by faith (Galatians 1:6; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-15). Our response as believers is to live our lives in a manner worthy of our calling (Ephesians 4:1, 2).

Our "election" refers to God's choice made before the foundation of the world was laid (2 Peter 1:10). He chose those to be redeemed in Christ (Ephesians 1:5).

This does not mean that before the foundation of the world GOD chose who was going to be saved and who was going to be lost.

What it does mean is that if you answer the call from GOD then your election is sure.

Spiritual maturity does not produce our election; instead, it is an evidence of our election.

In 2 Peter 1:10, Peter was referring to stumbling and falling into error, not the loss of our salvation. So Peter warned his readers about the doctrine and ways of false teachers (2:1, 20-22). Falling into the error of false doctrine can stunt the spiritual maturing process. Such stunting produces misery, grief, and a potential loss of usefulness in ministry (I Corinthians 9:27).

When Peter stated that believers would "never fall" (2 Peter 1:10), he was not advocating a doctrine of sinless-ness for Christians. Nowhere, not in 2 Peter or anywhere else, does the Bible provide for such a state of maturity this side of Heaven. At the same time, however, "never fall" means that we cannot lose or forfeit our salvation (John 10:27, 28).

An Abundant Entrance

Christian hope anticipates the future everlasting kingdom in Christ, which will last forever (2 Peter 1:11). Believers are already kingdom members (Colossians 1:13). So in 2 Peter 1:11, Peter was referring to how we will enter the messianic Kingdom, not if we will enter it. Believers who are diligent in spiritual growth and thereby make their calling and election sure will have a lavish entrance. An abundance of fruitfulness leads to an entrance with abundance.

Remember!

Peter was determined to keep on reminding believers of the importance of spiritual maturity. We need to be reminded constantly, because it is easy for us to become so preoccupied with the things of today, even the good things, that we forget about the things of eternity.

Peter was, therefore, moved to action (2 Peter 1:12). He intended "to put" his readers "always in remembrance." He also intended to "stir" them "up by putting" them "in remembrance" (v. 13).

The "these things" (2 Peter 1:12) that we believers need reminding of are the things about which Peter had written in the preceding verses: the truths concerning God's provision for godly living, character traits, and making our salvation sure.

The word "established" in verse (12) means "to set fast." It is the same word Christ used in His instructions to Peter to "strengthen" his brothers (Luke 22:32). Peter was to

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firmly fix believers in the faith. He accomplished this command through his preaching and writings. So in 2 Peter he reminded believers of those truths; he faithfully fulfilled his Master's commission. When Peter called himself a servant of Jesus Christ, he was referring to his obedience to Christ's commission to "Strengthen thy brethren"

We must take serious note of Peter's intent. It is all too easy for us to forget the facts, although we are fixed in the faith. We need to be constantly reminded by others. We need to remind ourselves. We need to remind other believers.

Living in a Tent

Peter intended to continue his ministry until his death (2 Peter 1:13). As far as he was concerned, his death was the only event that would conclude his ministry to God's people.

Peter's intent became his duty: "Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance" (v. 13). The word "meet" means "just." He considered it the right thing to do to remind us of God's truth.

Peter knew that his life was transitory. He viewed his body as being like a tabernacle, or a tent that is to be taken down (v. 13). A tent is a temporary dwelling pitched for a short time in one place.

While he awaited the time when his tent would be taken down, Peter said he would give himself to thoroughly arousing the minds of God's people (v. 13). "To thoroughly arouse" is the meaning of the word stir." It was used of arousing a person from drowsy inattention. All of us need a refresher course from time to time. It is easy to become lazy and inattentive to the great truths of God's Word, even to forget who we are in Christ. We must beware of spiritual amnesia. Peter's intent was to provide the antidote.

Viewing Death

According to 2 Peter 1:14, the apostle's tent was soon to be taken down. Peter would be striking camp and moving on. The aging apostle knew that his death was imminent. Nevertheless, he was far from being a bitter old man, for he faced positively both his remaining time on earth and his approaching death.

Peter was very likely in his seventies when he wrote this letter. Christ had predicted his martyrdom about forty years earlier (John 21:17-19). Church tradition states that Peter was martyred under Nero in A.D. 67 or 68. He supposedly was executed by crucifixion in an upside down position, for he refused to be crucified like Christ.

Peter viewed his soon demise positively and calmly. He did not fear death, even his martyrdom, for he knew that he would be moving to a far better country. He knew that whatever happened was God's will for him. Peter had no fear or regret for having served Jesus Christ.

Time for Action

- Are you ready to throw in the towel as far as spiritual growth is concerned? If so, remember why you are saved. Remember also that God has equipped you for spiritual growth.
- Thank God that he has called and chosen you to receive His salvation.
- Begin a study of Bible doctrine if you are not involved in studying it. Continue to study Bible doctrine if you have already begun.

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- Do you know another Christian who is experiencing spiritual myopia? Consider how you can be an encouragement to that believer.
- How do you view death? Is it an impetus to you for faithful Christian ministry today? Do you need to make changes in your thinking, service for Christ, or lifestyle because death could occur at any time?

Notes

KJV

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Lesson 2

2 Peter 1

Your name _____
(all answers MUST include a scripture reference)

1. In addition to making certain our calling and election, what does growth in Christian character do for us (2 Peter 1:10)?
 2. What virtues did Peter list in 2 Peter 1:5-7 ?
 3. Did Peter fear death ?
 4. Can a Mature Christian ever get lazy ?
 5. How many people are eligible for salvation ?
 6. What is a sure way of stunting the spiritual maturity process ?
 7. Give three examples on how to keep your spiritual man healthy and compare them to you physical man ?
- | | |
|----|----|
| A. | D. |
| B. | E. |
| C. | F. |
8. How can we prevent our lives from becoming barren or unfruitful ?
 9. Why did CHRIST save you ?
 10. Can we lose our salvation ?
 11. Will the Mature Christian ever achieve sinless-ness while living in this earth suit ?
 12. What are the "these things" in 2 Peter 1: 12 ?
 13. Explain the difference between barren and unfruitful ?
 14. What is the beginning of spiritual maturity ?
 15. How does our Christian Character reflect our walk with GOD ?
 16. Before the foundation of the world, did GOD decide who was going to be saved and who was going to be lost ?

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17. What was a good way to have a lavish entrance into heaven ?
18. What reminder for the brethren was part of the Great Commission ?
19. What is meant by arousing the brethren from spiritual inattention ?
20. Do you want to grow in the LORD ?

True/False

GOD predestinated some to be saved and some to be lost ?

If I abuse my body with drugs and alcohol, when I get saved GOD will heal it ?

Thinking about doing great things for GOD and doing them are the same thing ?

Scripture memorization (*write these verses on the back page*)

2 Peter 1:10

Luke 22: 32

Galatians 5: 22-25

Philippians 1: 6; 2: 12, 13

2 Thessalonians 2: 13-15

Do you have any questions ?