

**2 Peter 1:8-15** **8** For if *these things* be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9** But he that lacketh *these things* is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. **10** Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do *these things*, ye shall never fall: **11** For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **12** Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of *these things*, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. **13** Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance; **14** Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me. **15** Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have *these things* always in remembrance.

**8a** For if *these things* be in you and abound,

**2 Peter 1:2-3** **2** Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, **3** According as his divine power hath given unto us **all things that pertain unto life and godliness**, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to **glory** and **virtue**:

**2 Peter 1:5-7** And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your **faith virtue**; and to **virtue knowledge**; **6** And to **knowledge temperance**; and to **temperance patience**; and to **patience godliness**; **7** And to **godliness brotherly kindness**; and to **brotherly kindness charity**.

**8b** they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*These things* are grace, peace, and all things that pertain unto life and godliness (given by God through the Holy Ghost), including faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, brotherly kindness, and charity make us fertile (productive) and fruitful in the recognition and acknowledgment of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*These things* are to be multiplied unto you, and be in you and abound, and to be given *all diligence* to be added one unto another.

It is not good to receive a gift and not open the gift nor put the gift to use.

**9a** But he that lacketh *these things*

A person who has not been given the gifts of the Holy Ghost of peace and hope. An unregenerate person.

**9b** is blind, and cannot see afar off,

A person who cannot open the gift because it has not been given and who cannot properly use the gift because they do not have it in their possession. The result of this is spiritual blindness, with no ability to view eternity, nor to see Jesus Christ reigning there.

John Gill on verse 9: *he sees nothing but outward things, the things of time and sense, worldly and earthly things, which are near him, and all around him, which he minds, on which his heart is set, and he pursues with rigour.*

**Matthew 15:1-20** 1 Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying, 2 Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread. 3 But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? 4 For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death. 5 But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; 6 And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition. 7 **Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, 8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. 9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.** 10 ¶And he called the multitude, and said unto them, Hear, and understand: 11 Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man. 12 Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying? 13 **But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. 14 Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.** 15 Then answered Peter and said unto him, Declare unto us this parable. 16 And Jesus said, Are ye also yet without understanding? 17 Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught? 18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. 19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: 20 These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.

**2 Timothy 3:5** Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

**9c and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.**

Not that the unregenerate has been purged of sins by the blood of Jesus Christ, but rather that a person who does not have the gifts of God may have at one time professed with his mouth, not his heart, that he had faith and forgiveness. But such a person gives no indication by his life that he remembers his past sins, nor is he convicted of them in any way. His sins are of no consequence to him at all.

**10a Wherefore the rather, brethren,**

Brethren being those who *have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ*, who are regenerate and have been given *exceeding great and precious promises*, and who are *partakers of the divine nature*.

**10b give diligence to make your calling and election sure:**

Since the brethren have spiritual sight and have recognition of their sins (and the forgiveness thereof), they are individually to be diligent to assure both themselves and others that they are called and elected by God.

**Philippians 2:12-13** 12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.** 13 **For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.**

Diligence in the use of the gifts is the expression of thankfulness to God for the gifts he has given them.

**10c for if ye do *these things*, ye shall never fall:**

Not that the doing of these things will prevent the brethren from falling into sin, but rather that the diligent continuance in and the returning to those things indicates that they will not fall eternally. They will never fall into sin and not recover. They will instead persevere for eternity because they are preserved forever in Jesus Christ. Their diligence to *all things that pertain unto life and godliness* demonstrates their confidence in their salvation.

And what could give us more confidence than this statement by our Lord and Savior?

**John 10:27-28** 27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28 **And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.** 29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and **no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.**

**11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.**

For through the diligent pursuit of growth in God's grace we grow in confidence and in hope of our entrance into the kingdom of heaven. Confidence and hope in heaven bring that gift of the Holy Ghost, peace.

**John 14:1-4** 1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. 4 And **whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.**

**John 14:6-7** 6 Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.** 7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.

**John 14:10-12** 10 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but **the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.** 11 Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake. 12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, **He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do;** because I go unto my Father.

These things (the works of the Father and the Son in the life of the Christian) give us confidence and hope in the *exceeding great and precious promises* even in the midst of trials and tribulations.

**Hebrews 11:13-16** 13 These all died in faith, **not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.** 14 For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. 15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. 16 **But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.**

**Hebrews 12:28-29** 28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: 29 For our God is a consuming fire.

**12-15** Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of *these things*, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance; Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me. Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have *these things* always in remembrance.

Peter ends his exhortation by giving his readers an explanation of his intention: to help them remember, to establish them, to rouse them, so that even after his death, they will not forget. This should be the intent of all ministers of Jesus Christ: to preach to the current generation with the intent that the things they preach upon will be carried on to the next generation and those that follow.