

Fruitful in the Faith

Salvation, Sanctification, and Spiritual Success

2 Peter 1:1-11

The command for sanctification in verse 5 (“add to your faith”) is predicated upon the condition of salvation in verse 1 (“those who have obtained like precious faith”). Without the salvation detailed in verses 1-4 there can be no sanctification as demanded in verses 5-8 and no spiritual success as described in verses 9-11.

I. Know that God’s _____ is _____ (2-3)

A. Through the _____ of Christ (3)

B. By the _____ of Christ (3)

II. Know that God’s _____ are _____ (4)

A. We become partakers of the _____ (4)

B. We escape the _____ (4)

III. Know that Man’s _____ is the _____ (5-8)

A. The believer’s _____ (5-7)

1. _____ (5)

2. _____ (5)

3. _____ (6)

4. _____ (6)

5. _____ (7)

6. _____ (7)

7. _____ (7)

B. The believer’s _____ (8-9)

1. _____ (8)

2. _____ (9)

C. The believer’s _____ (10-11)

The security of our salvation is fixed. However, the surety (assurance) of our salvation is a feeling. Many believers stumble along through their Christian lives with uncertainty about their salvation because of unfruitfulness in their sanctification.

If you want to experience the preciousness of God's promises and enjoy them in your own heart, then meditate on them a lot. Promises are like grapes in the wine-press—when you walk on them the juice will flow. Thinking over His words and weighing them carefully will often be the prelude to their fulfillment. While you ponder them, the breakthrough you've been seeking will come to you.

But besides meditating upon the promises, seek in your soul to receive them as being the very words of God . . . Your eye shouldn't be so taken with the promise itself and the greatness of the mercy—which is staggering enough—but you should focus on the greatness of the Promiser Himself. It is God, even our God, that cannot lie, and He is the One speaking. His work is as true as His own existence. He is a God unchangeable. He has not altered His word, nor called back one single consoling sentence. He lacks no power to fulfill His word either; He is the God who made the heavens and the earth. In His unfailing wisdom He even knows the best timing to give His gifts to us and when to withhold them.

Therefore, seeing that God's word is so true, so unchangeable, so powerful, so wise, I will and must believe His promise. If we meditate upon His promises like this and consider the Promiser, we will experience their sweetness and obtain their fulfillment.

- Charles Spurgeon

The Apostle does not ask us to do anything until he has first of all emphasized and repeated what God has done for us in Christ.

How often have men given the impression that to be Christian means that you display in your life a kind of general belief of faith, and then you add to it virtue and knowledge and charity! To them the Christian message is an exhortation to us to live a certain type of life, and an exhortation to put these things into practice.

But that is an utter travesty of the Gospel. The Christian Gospel in the first instance does not ask us to do anything. It first of all proclaims and announces to us what God has done for us.

The first statement of the Gospel is not an exhortation to action or to conduct and behavior. Before man is called upon to do anything, he must have received something. Before God calls upon a man to put anything into practice, He has made it possible for man to put it into practice.

- Martyn Lloyd-Jones