

1 **The progress of spiritual growth**

2 PETER 1:5-9

2 **2 Peter 1:5-9 (KJV)**

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. 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. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. (2 Peter 1:5–9, KJV 1900)

3 **Spiritual growth results in Kingdom fruitfulness**

▶ *For if these things are yours and are increasing, this does not make you useless or unproductive in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1:8, LEB)*

▶ You must POSSESS these qualities – these qualities must BELONG to you

▶ You must be INCREASING the measure of these qualities

▶ Grace and growth must go together

▶ Without growth, you are ineffective (idle, useless) and unproductive (unfruitful) in the full personal knowledge of Jesus Christ.

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4 **Some Christians are not growing**

▶ They lack growth and fruit in their lives

▶ *And I, brothers, was not able to speak to you as to spiritual people, but as to fleshly people, as to infants in Christ. (1 Corinthians 3:1, LEB)*

▶ *For indeed, although you ought to be teachers by this time, you have need of someone to teach you again the beginning elements of the oracles of God, and you have need of milk, not solid food. For everyone who partakes of milk is unacquainted with the message of righteousness, because he is an infant. (Hebrews 5:12–13, LEB)*

5 **Those who are not growing are missing out**

▶ Believers who are not growing are myopic

▶ They live in their own little world and care only about their own needs and desires

▶ They can live their entire lives and not really count as a blessing to anyone else

▶ Are you ready to live in such a way as to make a difference?

6 **The results of spiritual growth**

▶ You birth other Christians into the Kingdom by sharing your faith -- *ye shall neither be barren*

▶ Your life bears the fruit of knowing Christ -- *nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord*

▶ You have proper spiritual vision that:

▶ Sees the needs of others

▶ Sees the needs of those closest to you

▶ Sees the world in a proper perspective

▶ Keeps a proper focus on Jesus Christ

7 **Spiritual eye trouble**

8 **Myopic Vision**

Spiritual Eye Trouble

- ▶ Focal point of eye is in front of the retina
- ▶ The person only see things clearly that are near to him

9 **Myopia (Spiritual) – failing to see others' needs**

- ▶ The person who is not growing in spiritual virtues only sees:
 - ▶ their own needs
 - ▶ their own problems
 - ▶ Their own desires
- ▶ They ignore others around them that need Christ's love

10 **Myopia (Spiritual)**

- ▶ Philippians 2:21 -- *For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.*
- ▶ 2 Peter 1:9 -- *But he that lacketh these things is blind (myopia), and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.*

11 **Spiritual Eye Trouble**

And for this same reason, and by applying all diligence, supply with your faith excellence of character, and with excellence of character, knowledge, and with knowledge, self-control, and with self-control, patient endurance, and with patient endurance, godliness, and with godliness, brotherly love, and with brotherly love, love. For if these things are yours and are increasing, this does not make you useless or unproductive in the knowledge of our lord Jesus Christ. For the one for whom these things are not present is blind, being nearsighted, having forgotten the cleansing of his former sins. (2 peter 1:5–9, LEB)

12 **Hyperopia (Physical)**

- ▶ Focal point is behind the retina
- ▶ Person is "far-sighted" only seeing clearly what is far away from them.

13 **Hyperopia (Spiritual) – overlooking those closest to you**

- ▶ A person with spiritual hyperopia sees many projects to do and many people to whom he can minister, but misses the needs of his own family or those closest to him

14 **Hyperopia (Spiritual)**

- ▶ I Timothy 5:8 -- *But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.*
- ▶ Matthew 7:3, 5 -- *And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? 5Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.*

15 **Strabismus (Physical)**16 **Strabismus (Spiritual) – trying to be worldly and spiritual at the same time**17 **Strabismus (Spiritual)**

- ▶ James 1:8 -- *A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.*
- ▶ Job 31:1 -- *I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?*
- ▶ Proverbs 4:25 -- *Let thine eyes look right on and let thine eyelids look straight before thee.*
- ▶ *No one is able to serve two masters. For either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You are not able to serve God and money. (Matthew 6:24, LEB)*
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Spiritual Eye Trouble

18 **Astigmatism (Physical)**

- ▶ Lumpy lens distorts image

19 **Astigmatism (Spiritual) – a flawed understanding based on human reasoning**20 **Astigmatism (Spiritual)**

- ▶ We all suffer spiritual astigmatism because of our fallen nature.
 - ▶ Adam and Eve's sight changed when they sinned (Genesis 3:7).
 - ▶ 1 Corinthians 13:12 – *"For now we see through a glass darkly. . ."*
- ▶ The cure:
 - ▶ James 1:25 – *Looking into the perfect law of liberty* (the Word brings true vision)
 - ▶ Tears of true repentance -- *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.* (Psalm 51:17, LEB)

21 **Presbyopia (Physical)**22 **Presbyopia (Spiritual) – having a hardened attitude toward God and others**23 **Presbyopia (Spiritual)**

- ▶ Some Christians get off to a good beginning but become spiritually resistant to the Lord.
 - ▶ They fail to obey instantly the promptings of God's Spirit.
 - ▶ They fail to see biblical truth because they rely on their own intellect.
- ▶ Revelation 2:4 – They have lost their first love.
- ▶ I John 3:17 – *But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?*

24 **Cataracts (Physical)**25 **Cataracts (Spiritual) – darkened spiritual vision by repeated exposure to iniquity**26 **Cataracts (Spiritual)**

- ▶ When a Christian sets before his eyes the evil of the world, his spiritual vision becomes clouded and he will eventually be in darkness.
- ▶ For this reason David declared, ". . . *I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes.*"

27 **Making it real**

Therefore, brothers, be zealous even more to make your calling and election secure, because if you do these things, you will never ever stumble. (2 PETER 1:10, LEB)

28 **Make your calling and election sure**

- ▶ 1:10. Being eager (spoudasate, also used in vv. 1, 15; 3:14 means to make every effort. make every effort"); cf. spoudēn in 1:5)
- ▶ To make one's calling and election sure focuses on the confidence a Christian has about his standing with God. You can't by works or focus or ritual improve your standing with God. But you can learn to better live in the confidence of your standing with God.
- ▶ A believer hardly has the authority to assure God of his status; actually the reverse is true.

29 **God gives you a warranty deed**

- ▶ The Greek word for "sure" (bebaian) was used in classical Greek to refer to a warranty deed somewhat like those people use today on houses and other pieces of property.

Spiritual Eye Trouble

- ▶ One's godly behavior is a warranty deed for himself that Jesus Christ has in fact cleansed him from his past sins and therefore that he was in fact called and elected by God.
 - ▶ Bebaian is rendered "secure" (Heb. 6:19), "guaranteed" (Rom. 4:16), "firm" (2 Cor. 1:7), "courage" (Heb. 3:6), "confidence" (Heb. 3:14), and "in force" (Heb. 9:17).

30 **Your calling**

- ▶ Calling refers to God's efficacious work in salvation (cf. Rom. 1:7; 8:30; 1 Cor. 1:9)
- ▶ Christ's atonement is sufficient for all but efficient only in those that believe.
 - ▶ Christ's atonement is unlimited in its availability
 - ▶ But it is limited in its reception – by man's free will ("whosoever will call upon the name of the Lord")

31 **Your election**

- ▶ Election is God's exercise of His choice.
 - ▶ Some say that God chooses some over others to receive salvation.
 - ▶ However, there is also a good argument for saying that God's choice referred to in Romans refers to His choice of one nation over another.
 - ▶ We're not here to debate that today, but I recommend that you listen to the sermon by Adrian Rogers on YouTube entitled "Predestined to Hell? Absolutely Not." This could be the most cohesive presentation of all the passages that resolve the conflicts created by the arguments of many others.
- ▶ Things we can be certain of:
 - ▶ God IS sovereign. That means that He can do what He wants. We can do nothing to change the sovereignty of God
 - ▶ God loves us and the Word tells us that we must by an act of our will receive Christ (John 1:12). We can appeal to the free will of man.

32 **Demonstrate who you are by what you do**

- ▶ We are known by our fruits and by our love for one another.
- ▶ A believer shows by his godly life and his growth in the virtues mentioned in 2 Peter 1:5–7 that he is one of God's chosen.
 - ▶ Such a believer will not fall (or "stumble," *ptaisēte*).
 - ▶ This word "stumble" does not suggest that a believer loses his salvation, for salvation does not depend on one's spiritual growth.
 - ▶ The Greek word for stumble means to trip up or to experience a reversal.
 - ▶ Certainly one who is maturing in Christ will not trip up in his spiritual life as readily as one who is immature and nearsighted.

33 **Our ultimate reward**

- ▶ *For in this way entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly supplied for you.* (2 Peter 1:11, LEB)
- ▶ The ultimate reward of a growing, Christ-honoring life is the personal "welcome" by the Savior into His kingdom.
 - ▶ Stephen experienced it -- *And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"* (Acts 7:56, LEB)
 - ▶ Paul knew when it was imminent for him -- *I have fought the good fight, I have completed the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, the crown of righteousness is reserved for me, that 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.* (2 Timothy 4:7–8, LEB)

34 **We will be welcomed enthusiastically**

- ▶ Every believer will experience such a welcome when he enters the Lord's presence in heaven. You will receive a rich welcome is, literally, "the entrance will be supplied richly for you."
- ▶ "Supplied" is from the verb *epichoregeō*, translated "add" in 2 Peter 1:5. The entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be supplied with richness; it will be a wonderful "welcome home."