

Neither barren nor unfruitful

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.

II Peter 1:8

With the apostle's reminder of our Lord's exceeding great and precious promises, which make us to be partakers of the divine nature, it seems odd that there exists the possibility implied here that we could be barren and unfruitful in the knowledge of Him. But while God does all the saving and all the sanctifying, the context preceding our text demonstrates that, beside this, there are choices on our part that promote the growth of the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. We are to add to our faith, which is that initial step into sanctifying grace that changes our position before God, from an outcast to His child, and joint-heir with Christ. The things to add are virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity. And not only are we to add these, but we are to add them with all diligence. Why? Because it is possible while we continue in this earthly tabernacle to be or to grow stagnant, even in faith and knowledge of the truth. Even in the beautiful growth that we witness about us in this spring season we can see some places where potential growth was stunted, or initial growth has been devoured by an adversary. So the gardener must add to the still-existing life those things that will bring revitalization, growth, and fruit. Likewise, in our spiritual life is the need to pursue these necessary fertilizers and fruits that the Spirit supplies. And not only that they might be in us, but be in us and abound. He came that we might have life, and have it more abundantly. Let us shun spiritual barrenness, and give ourselves wholly to the upward call of His precious promises unto these sanctifying fruits of His divine nature.