

Make Your Calling and Election Sure

2 Peter 1:10-11

Thought for the Day: Growing in Christlike character and conduct: 1) Gives us assurance that we are truly born-again children of God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; and 2) Assures us of a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

What is our calling as Christians? What is the relationship between election and our calling? What does it mean to make our calling and election "sure"? And, how do we do that?

3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness – God has given to us everything we need for living a godly Christian life.

through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence – The power to live the Christian life is found in intimate personal fellowship with the Lord based on the truths of His Word.

4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises – The precious promises of God's Word must be the source of our knowledge of God and the basis of our faith in God.

so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature – It is through the promises of God's Word that we are born again into the family of God and thereby receive the very nature of God (i.e., salvation). It is through obedience to the Word of God that we grow in Christlike character (i.e., sanctification).

having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire – We are delivered from the corrupting influences of this world and of our own sinful nature through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and obedience to His Word.

5 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith – The truths set forth in verses 3-4 should motivate us to earnestly pursue spiritual growth built upon the foundation of saving faith in the Lord.

with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, 7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love – Christlike character and conduct are the true measure of spiritual growth and maturity. Love for God, our fellow Christians, and others is the fulfillment of God's royal law.

8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ – Continual growth in Christlike character is the key to being useful to the Lord and fruitful in the Christian life.

9 For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind – The Christian who is not growing in Christlike character is spiritually blind because he / she is focused on and pursuing after the concerns of this world (e.g., riches, possessions, pleasures, etc.).

having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins – He / she has effectively forgotten the price and the purpose of his / her salvation.

10 Therefore, brothers be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure...

➤ "Be all the more diligent": Same verb & exhortation given in vs. 5: "Make every effort."

- Verse 5 – the exhortation is to “make every effort” to grow in Christlike character (the seven character qualities listed in verses 5-7).
- Verse 10 – the same exhortation is to “be all the more diligent” to put these character qualities into practice and thereby “to make our calling and election sure.”
- In verses 3-11, Peter is exhorting us to make every effort, to be diligent, to demonstrate the reality of our salvation by putting into practice the qualities listed in verses 5-7.
 - Our true character manifests itself in our conduct.
 - We do not *earn* our salvation by our conduct. But we demonstrate the *reality* of our salvation by our conduct.
 - The assurance of our salvation is not based on our *performance*, but on the *promises* of God’s Word.
 - But, at the same time, if we are growing in our Christian life and are putting Christlike character qualities into practice in our daily life, our behavior does provide a measure of assurance that we are indeed children of God.

...to make your calling and election sure...

- Our election took place in eternity past and our calling takes place at some point in our lifetime when we respond to God’s offer of salvation.
 - Election simply means that God chose us for Himself, for salvation, in eternity past before the creation of the world.
 - Before we did anything, good or bad—before we even existed—God chose us for Himself. This means that His selection was not based on our good works; it was based on His own sovereign free will.
 - Ephesians 1:3-4; 1 Peter 1:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 1:4-5; 2 Thess. 2:13-14; Acts 13:48.
- Our calling is spoken of extensively in the New Testament and is, therefore, a very important subject for us to understand.
 - In summary, God calls us to three things: 1) Salvation; 2) Sanctification (spiritual growth, which is what Peter is speaking of in this passage); and 3) Service.
 - What Peter is saying in these verses is that we demonstrate the reality of our salvation, of God’s calling and election in our lives, by our sanctification.
 - We can gain the assurance of our salvation by our commitment to spiritual growth.
 - Sanctification and service are sure signs of salvation.
 - Sinfulness and selfishness are sure signs of self-deception.
- “Though God is ‘sure’ who His elect are and has given them an eternally secure salvation, the Christian might not always have assurance of this salvation, unless he or she pursues the spiritual qualities cited by Peter. . .Genuine biblical assurance is God’s gift through the Holy Spirit to *obedient* believers.” (*MacArthur, 1 & 2 Peter, pp. 71, 74*)
- “It is not our profession of faith that guarantees we are saved; it is our progression in the faith that gives us that assurance. The person who claims to be a child of God but whose character and conduct give no evidence of spiritual growth is deceiving himself and heading for judgment.” (*Wiersbe, Be Alert, pp. 28-29*)
- Election and calling come from God, but we prove that we have been elected and called by our actions.

- "The exhortation is that the believer should make sure of the fact that he is saved by seeing to it that the Christian graces superabound in his life. There is no idea here of making sure that we *retain* our salvation but that we *possess* salvation." (*Wuest, Second Peter, pp. 27-28*)
- We don't *get ourselves* saved by our works and we don't *keep ourselves* saved by our works. But we demonstrate that *we are* saved by our works.

...for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.

- Eternal security, the assurance of our salvation, is not a license to loose living!
- "The Christian who is sure of his election and calling will never 'stumble' but will prove by a consistent life that he is truly a child of God." (*Wiersbe, Be Alert, p. 29*)
- Fall from or into what? Stumble or fall "into fear and doubt as a result of an unproductive life." (*MacArthur, 1 & 2 Peter, p. 71*)
- "This doesn't mean that we must do these things to secure our salvation or to guarantee our places in heaven. Rather, this is an urgent and passionate appeal to live out our calling, to demonstrate the reality of our salvation to others. . . The result of diligence is not salvation but stability, usefulness, and fruitfulness. With these things comes eternal reward upon Christ's return." (*Swindoll, Second Peter, p. 297*)

11 For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

- "The Greeks used this phrase to describe the welcome given Olympic winners when they returned home. Every [genuine] believer will arrive in heaven, but some will have a more glorious welcome than others. Alas, some believers 'shall be saved, yet so as by fire' (1 Cor. 3:15)." (*Wiersbe, Be Alert, p. 29*)
- The greater our effort to add Christlike character qualities to our faith (vss. 5-8), the greater will be our eternal reward in heaven (vs. 11).
- "A rich entrance into heavenly reward is the hope and reality for every believer who lives a faithful, fruitful life here on earth." (*MacArthur, 1 & 2 Peter, p. 71*)
- "Peter distinguishes between a just-barely-made-it entrance into the eternal kingdom and a richly abundant one. The Scripture indicates that fruitful and faithful living here will be rewarded by greater privileges and rewards in glory." (*NKJV Study Bible, p. 2131*)

Revelation 22:12-13: "Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay everyone for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."