

Blessed Assurance: How One Knows They Are Called by God to Salvation

2 Peter 1:1–11

WHAT IS TRUE, AND WHAT SHOULD CHRISTIANS DO?

Peter encouraged the flock of God in Asia Minor that their salvation is fully sustained by God's power (1:3–4), that it is confirmed by fruitful growth in the faith (1:5–7), and that it will eventually result in honor and reward (1:8–11).¹ Peter tells them (and us today) that God gives believers everything needed to live a fruitful, godly, and productive life through the knowledge of Jesus Christ. Thus, believers should cultivate the increasing qualities of faith, virtue/goodness, knowledge, self-control, endurance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love. "These things" assure us that we are being conformed to the image of God's Son by the inner witness of the Holy Spirit (Ro. 8:29, Heb. 3:12–14).

- 1.) Greetings to **believers** (those with faith in **our God** and **Savior** Jesus Christ), declaring the great value of the **knowledge** of God and His promises (v. 1–4).
- 2.) How to **live** "in Christ." (v. 5–7)
 - We ought not to be content with an incomplete or immature Christian life.
 - Add to your faith: **virtue** (goodness). Life in Christ (God) begins with **faith**, but *faith* progresses into virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love—with love being the ultimate quality of God's work in us. (see 1 Pet. 4:8, love covers many sins)
 - We are called to be **active** in cultivating these qualities, working in partnership with God to add them. Christians are **not passive** receivers.
- 3.) Measure your Christian **walk** (v. 8–9).
 - Does your life bear spiritual **fruit**? Do not be blind and **shortsighted**. Do not forget the great cost paid by Jesus for paying the penalty of sin.
- 4.) Make your call and election **sure**; test yourself. **Are you saved**? (v. 10–11)
 - We can be **assured** that God called us and that we are His elect. It is by "these things" in 2 Peter 1:5–7 (faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love). As we see them in our life, we know we are becoming more like Jesus. (Ro. 8:29).
 - While it is possible for an **unsaved** person to do **moral** and religious duties, the "these things" Peter writes of are matters of the heart and should be evident in anyone born again. If we are born again, it should show in **the way that we live**.
 - Four motivations: (1) You will become more like Christ and know God; (2) if you don't make progress, you will forget that you are a believer and descend into confusion; (3) if you do these, you will know for sure that you are called and elected by God for salvation; and (4) if you endure and grow into your salvation, you will receive a rich welcome in the kingdom.¹

Note: Peter's focus on Spirit-led good works and godly character providing assurance of salvation tracks with other Scriptures (e.g., Mt. 7:15–20; Gal. 5:19–24; Jas. 2:14–26).