

2 Peter 1:1-11

1 Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

2 May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

Confirm Your Calling and Election

3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, **4** by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. **5** For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith 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. **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. **9** For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. **10** Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. **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.

2 Peter Outline

I. Remember the Greatness of Salvation (1:1-11)

II. Trust the Certainty of Scripture (1:12-21)

III. Beware of Deceptive False Teachers (2:1-22)

IV. Hope in the Promised Future (3:1-16)

Section Outline

- I. Remember the Greatness of Salvation (1:1-11)
 - A. The Great Source of our Salvation (Justification) (1:3-4)
 - 1. Divine Power
 - 2. All Sufficient Supply
 - 3. Intimate Knowledge of His Majesty
 - 4. Magnificent Promises
 - 5. Companionship with God
 - B. The Great Journey of our Salvation (Sanctification) (1:5-8)
 - 1. Our Attitude for the Journey
 - 2. Seven Attributes for Holiness
 - 3. Settled Assurance
- C. The Great Destination of our Salvation (Glorification) (1:9-11)
 - 1. Know for Certain your Destination (vs 9)
 - 2. Be Persistent in your Confirmation (vs 10)
 - 3. The Riches of our Glorification (vs 11)

Attributes

Virtue, Knowledge,
Self-Control, Steadfastness,
Godliness, Brotherly
Kindness, Love

⁹For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. ¹⁰Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. ¹¹For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Questions:

What is “Assurance”?

“Security is the Holy Spirit revealed fact that salvation is forever” John MacArthur

Assurance is the settled conviction and the peace that follows that my eternity is in Heaven.

Can we have assurance of our salvation? Yes but many say No

Why do people have a lack of assurance?

John MacArthur

1. Convicting preaching
2. Feeling that we’re too sinful to be saved
3. Wrong understanding of the Gospel
4. Don’t know the exact moment of our salvation
5. Ongoing battles of unredeemed flesh
6. Don’t see God’s hand in the trials of life
7. Disobedience to the Word of God

What are the benefits of assurance?

John MacArthur

1. Highest level of joy in our lives
2. Pushes us to seek God’s purposes
3. Fills our hearts with gratitude and praise
4. Strengthens us through trials and temptations
5. Love obedience to God’s Word
6. Provides peace in the midst of storms
7. Wait patiently for God’s timing
8. Purifies the heart

Psalm 16:11

¹¹ You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Psalm 90:14

¹⁴ Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

John 15:11

¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Romans 15:13

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

“Assurance that does not lead to a more holy walk is a false assurance. The person whose assurance is well-founded, who experiences true peace and joy, who is busy in the Lord's service and lives in close fellowship with Him, will lead a holy life. A believer cannot persist in high levels of assurance while he continues in low levels of holiness.”
— Joel R. Beeke, Knowing And Growing in Assurance of Faith

C. The Great Destination of our Salvation (Glorification) (1:9-11)

1. Know for Certain your Destination (vs 9)
2. Be Persistent in your Confirmation (vs 10)
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⁹For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.

Verse 9 gives the negative or contrary viewpoint to Verse 8 and collectively they galvanize Peter's point

⁸For if these qualities are yours and are increasing (**POSITIVE**), they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

"*These qualities*"= Virtue, Knowledge, Self-Control, Steadfastness, Godliness, Brotherly Kindness, Love

⁹For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind" (**NEGATIVE**)

"*Lacks*" - not present in an increasing pattern of life - not maturing in "life & godliness"

1 Corinthians 13:11 (*immaturity of a child*)

¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.

Ephesians 4:14 (*immaturity of a child*)

¹⁴so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

"*Nearsighted*" - Gr. μυωπάζω (*muōpazō*) - fail to understand, short-sighted, see dimly

- 'being so limited in understanding as to not realize' or '... as to not comprehend'

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). [*Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains*](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 385). New York: United Bible Societies.

- Only time used in NT
- Where we get our word "myopia" - near-sightedness - close objects are clear, far-away are blurry
- Therefore spiritual blindness that doesn't allow the light to come in, causes us to see only ourselves and not the full picture or light of Christ

Isaiah 33:17

¹⁷Your eyes will behold the king in his beauty; they will see a land that stretches afar.

"*Blind*" - Gr. τυφλός (*typhlos*) - unable to see, pertaining to a blind person, not able to understand

1 John 2:9-11

⁹Whoever says he is in the light and **hates his brother is still in darkness**. ¹⁰Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. ¹¹But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because **the darkness has blinded his eyes**.

Matthew 15:14

¹⁴ Let them alone; they are **blind** guides. And if the **blind** lead the **blind**, both will fall into a pit.”

2 Corinthians 4:4

⁴ In their case the god of this world has **blinded the minds of the unbelievers**, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

⁹ For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.

“*Forgotten*” - Gr. λήθη (lēthē) - forgetfulness, not to remember, lose sight of

- Only time used in the NT

“*Cleansed*” - Gr. καθαρισμός (katharismos) - purification, ceremonial washing

Hebrews 1:3

³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making **purification** for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Titus 3:5-6

⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, **by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit**, ⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

“*Cleansed from former sins*” (ESV), “*Past sins*” (HCSB), “*Old sins*” (NKJ)

- This is a rebuke and a warning
- **Rebuke** to believers (“cleansing from sins”) who don’t look any different from unbelievers
- **Warning** to false converts who are headed to hell and need to repent

**You can be certain of your salvation and
enjoy the blessings of it in this life and the next**

C. The Great Destination of our Salvation (Glorification) (1:9-11)

1. Know for Certain your Destination (vs 9)
- 2. Be Persistent in your Confirmation (vs 10)**
3. The Riches of our Glorification (vs 11)

¹⁰ Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.

“*Therefore*” - be settled in your assurance and belief in the truth of scripture

“*Diligent*” - Gr. σπουδάζω (spoudazō) - do quickly, do one’s best, make every effort, be eager

- Same root word as “make every effort” in verse 5
- “*For this very reason, **make every effort** to supplement your faith...*”
- Peter is circling back around to hammer in his point

2 Peter 1:9-11

“Confirm” (ESV), “to make certain” (NAS) - Gr. βέβαιος (*bebaios*) - verify, be sure, guaranteed, show dependable or reliable

Romans 4:16

¹⁶ That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and **be guaranteed** (*bebaios*) to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all,

Hebrews 6:17-19

¹⁷ So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, ¹⁸ so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. ¹⁹ We have this as a sure and **steadfast** (*bebaios*) anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain,

The Greek word for “confirm” (*bebaios*) was used in classical Greek to refer to a warranty deed somewhat like those people use today on houses and other pieces of property. One’s godly behavior is a warranty deed for himself that Jesus Christ has cleansed him from his past sins and therefore that he was in fact called and elected by God.

Gangel, K. O. (1985). [2 Peter](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, pp. 866–867). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

“Calling” - Gr. κλήσις (*klēsis*) - implying a new relationship, role, situation or station in life

- “Calling” also in vs 3 but different Greek word καλέω (*kaleō*) - common word for ‘call’

Romans 11:28-29

²⁸ As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. ²⁹ For the gifts and the **calling** (*klēsis*) of God are irrevocable.

2 Timothy 1:9

⁹ who saved us and **called** (*kaleō*) us to a holy **calling** (*klēsis*), not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,

Ephesians 4:1

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the **calling** (*klēsis*) to which you have been **called** (*kaleō*),

“Election” - Gr. ἐκλογή (*eklogē*) - a choice, selection, chosen

- “Calling” - based in time, “Election” - based in eternity

Romans 9:10-11

¹⁰ And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, ¹¹ though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God’s purpose of **election** might continue, not because of works but because of him who **calls** (*kaleō*)—

Romans 11:5

⁵ So too at the present time there is a remnant, **chosen** by grace.

1 Thessalonians 1:4

⁴ For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has **chosen** you,

10 Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.

“Practice” - Gr. ποιέομαι (*poieomai*) - perform, cause to be, work, toil, behave toward someone in a particular way

- common word usually translated “do”

“Fall” - Gr. πταίω (*ptaiō*) - sin, formally stumble, trip, to err or fail (used 5 times in NT)

- Not the common word for ‘fall’ (*piptō*) - used over 90 times in NT

James 2:10

¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law but **fails** (*ptaiō*) in one point has become guilty of all of it.

Romans 11:11

¹¹ So I ask, did they **stumble** (*ptaiō*) in order that they might **fall** (*piptō*)? By no means! Rather, through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous.

God’s grace should not lead to moral relaxation but intense effort

Schreiner, T. R. (2003). *1, 2 Peter, Jude* (Vol. 37, p. 304). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

“The assurance of the believer is not that God will save him even if he stops believing, but that God will keep him believing - God will sustain you in faith, He will make your hope firm and stable to the end. He will cause you to persevere.” John Piper

C. The Great Destination of our Salvation (Glorification) (1:9-11)

1. Know for Certain your Destination (vs 9)
2. Be Persistent in your Confirmation (vs 10)
3. **The Riches of our Glorification (vs 11)**

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.

“In this way” - the pursuing holiness in the practice of the attributes in vs 5-7

“Richly” - Gr. πλουσίως (*plousiōs*) - in abundance, generously, in great amount, extreme to a great degree

1 Timothy 6:17

¹⁷ As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who **richly** provides us with everything to enjoy.

Titus 3:6 (*Holy Spirit*)

⁶ whom he poured out on us **richly** through Jesus Christ our Savior,

“Provided” - Gr. ἐπιχορηγέω (*epichorēgeō*) - support, supply

- Same word used in vs 5 “*supplement your faith*”
- Enhanced by adjective “Richly”
- The comparison of our “supplying” and the Lord “providing” is immensely different

2 Peter 1:9-11

“Entrance into the eternal kingdom”

“Eternal” - Gr. αἰώνιος (*aiōnios*) - all time, an unlimited duration

- Where we get “eon” - largest measure of time we have

“Kingdom” - Gr. βασιλεία (*basileia*) - reign as a king, area ruled by a king

1 Thessalonians 2:12

¹² we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own **kingdom** and glory.

Hebrews 12:28

²⁸ Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a **kingdom** that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe,

The ultimate reward of a growing, Christ-honoring life is the personal “welcome” by the Savior into His kingdom.

Gangel, K. O. (1985). [2 Peter](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 867). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

“Our assurance, our glory, and the sole anchor of our salvation are that Christ the Son of God is ours, and we in turn are in him sons of God and heirs of the Kingdom of Heaven, called to the hope of eternal blessedness by God’s grace, not by our worth.”

John Calvin

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Kingdom Verses:

Matthew 13:43 (*Parable of the Weeds*)

⁴³ Then **the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom** of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

Luke 23:42 (*Thief on the cross*)

⁴² And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your **kingdom**."

1 Peter 1:3-4

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ **to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,**

1 Peter 5:4

⁴ And when the chief Shepherd appears, **you will receive the unfading crown of glory.**

Luke 22:30 (*promise to the disciples*)

³⁰ that you may eat and drink at my table in my **kingdom** and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Acts 7:56 (*Stephen as he was being stoned*)

⁵⁶ And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

Colossians 1:13

¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the **kingdom** of his beloved Son,

2 Timothy 4:8

⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me the **crown of righteousness**, which 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 4:18

¹⁸ The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly **kingdom**. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 4:9

⁹ So then, there remains a **Sabbath rest** for the people of God,

Revelation 2:10

¹⁰ Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and **I will give you the crown of life.**

Revelation 11:15

¹⁵ Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the **kingdom** of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever."

Additional Resources:

2 Peter 1:9

“The cross which is the object of faith, is also, by the power of the Holy Spirit, the cause of it. Sit down and watch the dying Savior till faith springs up spontaneously in your heart. There is no place like Calvary for creating confidence. The air of that sacred hill brings health to trembling faith. Many a watcher there has said: 'While I view Thee, wounded, grieving, Breathless on the cursed tree, Lord, I feel my heart believing That Thou suffer'dst thus for me.'”

— Charles Haddon Spurgeon, All of Grace

The 1689 Baptist Confession (also known as the Old London Confession) on the doctrine of assurance:

Although temporary believers and other unregenerate persons may be deceived by erroneous, self-engendered notions into thinking that they are in God's favour and in a state of salvation— false and perishable hopes indeed!—yet all who truly believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and love Him in sincerity, endeavouring to conduct themselves in all good conscience according to His will, may in this life be certainly assured that they are in a state of grace. They may rejoice in hope of the glory of God, knowing that such a hope will never put them to shame.

Job 8:13, 14; Matt. 7:22, 23; Rom. 5:2, 5; 1 John 2:3; 3:14, 18, 19, 21, 24; 5:13.

The certainty of salvation enjoyed by the saints of God is not mere conjecture and probability based upon fallible hope, but an infallible assurance of faith based upon the blood and righteousness of Christ revealed in the gospel. It also results from the inward evidences of the graces of the Holy Spirit, for to those graces God speaks promises. Then again, it is based upon the testimony of the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of adoption, for He bears His witness with our spirits that we are the children of God. Such witness results in the keeping of our hearts both humble and holy.

Rom. 8:15, 16; Heb. 6:11, 17–19; 2 Peter 1:4, 5, 10, 11; 1 John 3:1–3.

(*A Faith to Confess: The Baptist Confession of Faith of 1689* [rewritten in modern English; Sussex, England: Carey Publications, 1975], 43)

The believer who is not experiencing an increase in the virtues will forfeit assurance, **having forgotten his purification from his former sins**. Literally the phrase here means “to receive [*lambanō*] forgetfulness [*lēthē*].” **Purification** translates *katharismos*, from which the English *catharsis* (“cleansing”) derives. Such a believer's sin makes him unable to be confident that he was cleansed and rescued from his former life (Eph. 2:4–7; 5:8, 26; Titus 3:5–6; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23; 1 John 1:7). He cannot be certain if he has been truly saved because he does not see an increase of virtue and usefulness in his life. Once blind before salvation, then made to see, these saints can experience a kind of spiritual blindness again.

That kind of spiritual forgetfulness leads to the repeating of old sins, and it robs such Christians of their assurance. Assurance of salvation is directly related to present spiritual service and obedience, not merely to a past salvation event made dim in the disobedient believer's memory.

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2005). [2 Peter and Jude](#) (pp. 43–44). Chicago: Moody Publishers.

2 Peter 1:10

I understand the “for” (*gar*) in v. 10b to explain further the idea in v. 10a. When Peter said “for if you do these things you will never fall,” the word *tauta* (“these things”) probably refers to the godly qualities of vv. 5–7. The word “fall” (*ptaisēte*) possibly could mean “sin.” The verb clearly has this meaning in James (Jas 2:10; 3:2). And yet such a notion is difficult to defend in the Petrine context both theologically and contextually. It is quite improbable that Peter thought Christians can actually live without sin. If so, he would contradict the Lord’s Prayer, which enjoins Christians to ask for forgiveness often (Matt 6:12). Another meaning makes much better sense in context. Believers who confirm their call and election by living in a godly manner will not “stumble,” that is, they will not forsake God, abandon him, and commit apostasy (cf. Rom 11:11; Jude 24). Believers who abound in the qualities described in vv. 5–7 will never fall away from God. They are cultivating their relationship with him daily. Those seduced by the false teachers reveal that the problem is a moral one. They have forsaken goodness, allowed their wills to be captivated by evil, and are now easy prey for deception.

Schreiner, T. R. (2003). [1, 2 Peter, Jude](#) (Vol. 37, pp. 305–306). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

2 Peter 1:11

In this way, again referring to the constant pursuit of holiness, the blessings of assurance and perseverance come to believers. As a result, **the entrance into the eternal kingdom of their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to** them. Assurance of one’s having entered into **the eternal kingdom** is the experience of the Christian who practices what Peter has listed. That was great encouragement to the apostle’s weary readers. No believer needs to live with doubt regarding salvation, but he may have assurance **abundantly supplied** in the present. A rich heavenly reward in the future may also be implied (cf. 2 Tim. 4:8; Heb. 4:9; 12:28; 1 Peter 5:4; Rev. 2:10; 22:12).

The Lord will reward His children based on their faithful pursuit of righteousness (see again 1 Cor. 3:11–14; 2 Cor. 5:10). Assurance in this life and riches in heaven are the benefits of spiritual diligence and fruitfulness.

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2005). [2 Peter and Jude](#) (p. 45). Chicago: Moody Publishers.