

Things To Know

II PETER

Rev. Mike Sadler • Know Your Salvation • October 31, 2021

Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. (Psalm 51:12)

To fight off the invading and fraudulent deception of false teachers, the believer must know some things. The Apostle Peter encourages us to know our salvation.

Our knowledge becomes certain as we more deeply understand His power and His promises...

Things to know:

- **The source of your salvation** – “To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours...” (2 Peter 1:1) Peter calls our faith precious. Think of the things in this world you may call “precious.” What is a treasure for you? Is it your home, portfolio, family, friends, hobbies, interests? Peter calls our faith precious because the One who bestowed it upon us is worthy and is faithful to follow through on His promises. How does the assurance of divine power give you confidence in the salvation that is yours?

The substance of your salvation – “Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.” (2 Peter 1:2) Grace and peace are the two cornerstone promises of the Christian life. Peter wants the young church to have them in abundance. How? Through knowledge. Before we can understand the benefits of Christ, we must know Him and we find Him in the pages of Scripture. When engaged in your bible reading or bible study, are you digging for the deep things of God and the application that such knowledge can provide a deeper walk with the Lord? What other methods does God use in providing knowledge in living the Christian life.

- **The sufficiency of your salvation** – “His divine power has given us everything we need... He has given us His very great and precious promises, so that through them, you may participate in the divine nature...” (2 Peter 1:3-4). Being able to participate in God’s divine nature is somewhat mind blowing. God could have saved us from hell but He didn’t need to invite us into His very essence. Does the offer of God to truly make us His sons and daughters give you confidence that God is “all in” when it comes to our salvation and that there is nothing else that we need?
- **The certainty of your salvation** – “For this reason, make every effort to add to your faith...” (2 Peter 1:5). In investing, it is difficult to build upon wealth if there is no capital. If we are going to add to our wealth, we have to have a certain amount of treasure to begin with. God guarantees the certainty of our salvation by putting the deposit of our salvation in the bank for us. It is there permanently and it can not be threatened or removed. What is your attitude regarding building your wealth in relation to your salvation by adding to the richness of it through learning about and living out the fruit of the Holy Spirit each day?

The path to assurance:

- "...make every effort to add to your faith goodness..." (2 Peter 1:5a)
- "and to goodness, knowledge..." (2 Peter 1:5b)
- "and to knowledge, self-control..." (2 Peter 1:6a)
- "and to self-control, perseverance..." (2 Peter 1:6b)
- "and to your perseverance, godliness..." (2 Peter 1:6c)
- "and to your godliness, brotherly kindness..." (2 Peter 1:7a)
- "and to your brotherly kindness, love." (2 Peter 1:7b)

Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith... (Heb. 10:22)

What allows us to know that we have a full assurance of salvation? The spiritual fruit that is manifest in our lives starts to grow. As you look at the characteristics of a Spirit filled Christian above, ask yourself: Is my life manifesting these things in greater abundance than a year ago?

Two options:

- **The positive option:** "For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 1:8) *In His teaching Jesus was always very keen to advise His disciples to be fruitful and effective for the kingdom of God. Here, Peter is saying that we will not be barren in our Christian walk if we possess the qualities that He describes above. Do you believe that we are never standing still in our relationship with Christ and His will for us? Why does God call us to exhibit the fruit of the Spirit in increasing measure?*
- **The negative option:** "But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins." (2 Peter 1:9). *Perhaps we forget just how far removed from God we were before our salvation. Do we minimize the cleansing of our sins by proclaiming some level of righteousness within ourselves? It is difficult to live the life of Christian love and simultaneously live in a state of measured rebellion toward God. Are there things in the list above that you need to work on? The Holy Spirit promises peace and grace as we endeavor to imitate Jesus in these things. Go for it!*

The benefits promised:

- **Complete assurance:** "Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure." (2 Peter 1:10) *It is possible for an unsaved person to do many moral and religious duties. But the "these things" Peter wrote of are matters of the heart, and should be evident in anyone who is born again. Simply said, if we are called, if we are elect, then we are born again – and if we are born again, it shows in the way that we live. Do you know someone that is struggling with a sense of their salvation? How can you help them see the difference between moral and religious duty and immersing themselves in the grace of the Lord Jesus?*
- **A rich welcome into eternity:** "...you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 1:11). *Sometimes we forget just how much God is pulling for us. He knows living the Christian life in an evil and hostile world is not easy. We are to take up our cross and deny ourselves for the glory of God; in that way we completely identify with Jesus. Take time to reflect on the future that God has in store for you. If it helps, take an inventory. Make a checklist on the beauty and benefits that will be yours one day. How does our individual hope of glory reinforce the knowledge of our personal salvation?*

"Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the Lord, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation." (Isaiah 25:9)

...continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and act according to his good purpose. (Phil. 2:12b-13)

