



# gracefellowship

Everything  
October 27, 2019  
Remember Everything

**:: 2 Peter 1:3-5**

**3 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.**

**4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.**

**5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge;**

**6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness;**

**7 and to godliness mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.**

**8 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.**

**9 But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.**

**10 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble,**

**11 and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

Today we are wrapping up our series looking at what it takes to develop a godly life. I hope this has been beneficial for you as you continue to learn to follow Jesus in faith. I think the thing that has been most helpful to me in this passage is the reminder that the things Peter tells us to add to our faith are to be grown day after day, year after year so we possess these qualities in ever increasing measure. The closer we grow in love and obedience to Jesus the more we separate ourselves from sin and wickedness. And just as a reminder, Peter tells us the wickedness and corruption we escape in the world comes from our own evil desires! We like to think that sin is something outside of us that lures us to pursue something we do not want. But the truth is, sin is entangled deep inside every one of us and our desires for sin constantly cause us to be at war with God's invitation to righteousness and godliness. That's why Peter wrote these things down, encouraging us to grow constantly in the things that allow us to go

to battle against our sinful cravings so that we might honor God's call on our lives to holiness.

Twice in this passage Peter tells us to make every effort to do something. In verse 5 he says, "...make every effort to add to your faith..." In light of the knowledge of God we've been shown, His glory and goodness revealed to us and the great and precious promises God has made to all who follow Him, we should make every effort to add to our faith the qualities Peter lines out in verses 5-7. We've spent the past 9 weeks looking at those things.

Today we see Peter once again tell us to make every to do something: look at verses 10-11.

**10 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, 11 and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

**We are to make every effort to confirm our calling and election.**

The doctrine of election is prevalent throughout Scripture in the Old and New Testaments. Wayne Grudem defines election this way:

**"Election is an act of God before creation in which He chooses some people to be saved, not on account of any foreseen merit in them, but only because of His sovereign and good pleasure." – Wayne Grudem**

The goal of this morning is not to do a deep dive into election and predestination, or to talk about Calvinism and Arminianism, rather I want to look briefly at the responsibility each of us individually has to know what God is working in our lives and what it looks like to confirm the salvation God has called us to.

The first thing I would say about this idea of the elect, those whom God has chosen to save, is that it is not our responsibility to know who is and isn't elect prior to conversion. How does one know if God chooses them? If they respond to God by accepting His offer of salvation and embrace His Kingdom by faith in Jesus.

In the book of Acts Luke records Paul and Barnabas speaking to a Jewish audience who rejected the message of salvation through Jesus. Paul tells them since they have not considered themselves worthy of eternal life, they were going to turn to the Gentiles.

**:: Acts 13:47-48**

**47 For this is what the Lord has commanded us: " 'I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.' "**

**48 When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of**

**the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.**

Luke, almost in passing, just says all who were appointed for eternal life believed. Who was elect in the crowd of Gentiles? Those who responded by believing in faith and were saved. Paul and Barnabas preached to everyone and held to the belief that all who accepted the message were the elect of God. Now Peter instructs people to make every effort to confirm their calling and election.

Peter is not worried about people losing their salvation; he isn't telling us to wake up every day and confirm whether we are or are not saved. Peter knows he is secure in his faith in Jesus and we are too. Confirming our calling and election looks more like consistently checking to make sure we are staying on the right path instead of sliding into sinful patterns. The qualities we have talked about over the past 9 weeks and are supposed to be building into our lives help us know we are moving down the right path and following the heart of Jesus to be godly. When I see goodness in my life that is the result of Jesus changing me, I confirm my place in Christ. When I see knowledge and self-control and perseverance that I can't produce entirely on my own, but come as a result of the work of the Holy Spirit in partnership with me, I confirm my calling and election.

How can I be sure God chose me and called me into His family? By doing the things Peter has spoken of: adding the characteristics of Jesus into my life continually.

**The evidence of a life in Christ, being changed by the Holy Spirit, is the characteristics of Christ on display in my life.**

Paul talked about doing the same things as we confirm our place in Christ. This isn't something to be scared of or shy away from. Look at Paul's challenge to the Corinthians:

**:: 2 Corinthians 13:5-6**

**5 Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?**

**6 And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test.**

In 1 John 4:1 we are told to test every spirit and not to just believe everything we hear. John's reason for that was that not everyone who stands up in the church and talks is telling the truth! We can all probably think of people who call themselves Christians and have large followings, but when we hear them talk about the Bible, the things they say don't seem to line up with solid doctrine. We need to put what they say to the test of Scripture. In the same way we need to test ourselves and make sure there is genuine faith and life change that is occurring. Paul isn't using this test in order to cast doubt into people's minds as to whether or not they are genuine Christians. He says, "Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you- unless of course, you fail the test? And I trust you will

discover that we have not failed the test.”

On one hand, Paul does give room for people to test the genuineness of their faith and discover it's not real. But by and large he says, I trust you will discover we haven't failed the test! His expectation was that the Christians in Corinth would investigate their faith and find that while they were struggling with some issues of sin in their church, they were, in fact, disciples of Jesus who were being changed by Him consistently.

I want you to hear my heart in this today as well: I'm not trying to say anything that would cause you to doubt your faith. I've been in ministry long enough to have had people come up to me after a message and say, "After what we talked about today I'm not sure I'm a Christian. I have been sinning lately and to be honest I don't feel like a Christian." That's good for people to be evaluating things in their life, but let me tell you that you can't trust your feelings! My feelings tell me ridiculous things all the time. My feelings still tell me I'm better at basketball than most everyone in Kingsport...until I get on the court and play most everyone in Kingsport! There are times I don't feel like a good husband or a good father or a good Pastor, but it doesn't mean I'm actually failing in those roles. I can't trust my feelings because my heart often lies to me! Secondly, sin in your life is not an indicator you are not a Christian. If it was, the Apostle Paul was the first person left out of heaven. He not only called himself the chief of sinners, but he talked openly about the fact that the sinful things he didn't want to do kept pulling him in, while the good he wanted to do wasn't always accomplished.

When Peter tells us to confirm our calling and election sure, he is telling us the way to do that is found in godly living as we've described throughout this series. If you truly belong to the Lord, the results will be a life working out your faith. If you're not working out the qualities Peter listed or have interest in growing as a disciple of Jesus, you may not belong to Him! Examine yourself because it's better to discover that now and embrace Jesus fully as your Savior than to live with false comfort and assurance and stand before Jesus one day and hear Him say to you, "Away from me evildoers, I never knew you!" (Matthew 7:23)

Let's look beyond this idea of testing ourselves to see what the results or benefits are of this testing. When I find my faith to be genuine, what do I gain?

#### **What do we gain by confirming our faith?**

- 1. The promise we will not stumble into our eternal life with Jesus.**
- 2. The promise of a rich welcome into God's Kingdom.**

**:: 2 Peter 1:10-11**

**10 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble,  
11 and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

Have you ever tripped and fallen over seemingly nothing? That's what I think of when I think of the word stumble. I was watching the TN football game last week against that team we were playing who shall remain nameless and on one play a guy broke a long run down the sideline. As the camera moved ahead of the runner a little bit you saw the side judge trying to turn and run to keep up with the play. This is a middle-aged man who is a little overweight trying to run with the best college athletes in the country. As he turned to run he got tripped up by the turf monster! I rewound that play and watched it over and over! His stumble provided me entertainment!

When I was in Middle School I ran track and competed in the 4x400 meter relay. Our anchor for the race was a kid named Tommy. He was one of those kids that bloomed early, so he was muscular and super fast as an 8<sup>th</sup> grader. Tommy also had a glorious mullet that blew in the wind as he ran! It was a sight to behold! We all knew if we could keep the race close and get the baton in Tommy's hand, we had a really good chance to win the race, even if we were behind. Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade year in the last meet for our district championships we were competing at Carson Newman College and we had fallen behind in the race. Tommy got the baton in his hand and he took off, mullet flying! He caught up to the field, but trying to do everything he could to win, he leaned forward and extended his chest toward the tape. Do you know that feeling you get when you're about to fall and realize there is nothing you can do about it? Tommy stumbled and he couldn't get control of his body. He fell running full speed and went face and chest first into the track. He stumbled painfully through the finish line instead of ending his race with grace and excitement.

Why am I telling you that story? Because God doesn't want us to end our race like that! Many times in Scripture the Christian life is described like a race and our goal is to run to the best of our ability to the very end.

When Peter says you will never stumble, he doesn't mean you will never sin. He means we won't fail to reach the goal of God's complete salvation from sin. Peter wants us to know that being in Christ means life will have bumps and bruises along the way, but our ultimate place in heaven is solid in the promises of Jesus and He wants us to complete our race running full speed, not limping along, barely making it.

The second thing we gain in following Christ is a rich welcome into His Kingdom. I don't know what you think of when the idea of a grand welcome comes to mind, but when Peter describes this he has Rome in mind to convey an idea to his audience. Some of your translations may say "you will receive an abundant entrance into the Kingdom." Paul was thinking of a Roman conqueror coming back from war and entering the city after a successful campaign. At the city gates a choir and musicians would be waiting for the army and they would join the troops to give them a parade through the city as a welcome home.

God can't wait to welcome us home to be with Him for eternity! Let the promise of a rich welcome into His Kingdom motivate you to pursue Him diligently and to continue to grow in your faith, adding daily those things which will help you live godly lives.

To close up this morning I want us to look at 2 Peter again and explore 4 verses we haven't talked about yet in this series, but which I think are important to consider as we close our series.

**:: 2 Peter 1:12-15**

**12 So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have.**

**13 I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body,**

**14 because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me.**

**15 And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things.**

Peter tells the church it's not a problem for him to remind them of these things again. It sounds to me like he's told them before and is now writing these things down in this letter and also has a plan to find another way to continually remind them. Peter is just like a parent in this passage! How many times do I have to tell my kids to brush their teeth? Or wear deodorant? Honestly, it doesn't matter how many times I have to do it- I'm happy to keep reminding them so their teeth don't fall out and they don't stink all the time!

Maybe you have to remind employees of something at work over and over again. I have to tell our team all the time: Don't listen to Andy! He doesn't know what he's talking about! But they keep listening to him and I have to keep reminding them!

The things we have to continually remind people about will eventually sink in with them.

**Peter had a plan for his ministry to outlast his life.**

What's your plan? We need people who are spiritual parents to step up and disciple people. All around you are sitting people who want to keep growing in their faith and they could benefit from you taking time to invest in them and show them how to add the characteristics we've studied in this series into their lives. You don't have to be perfect to disciple someone- you just need to be a step ahead of them and be able to help point them to Jesus! As you grow in your faith and grow in godliness please help others do the same. Share with someone who is a spiritual child or spiritual young adult what it means to live a godly life. Imagine how our church would change and the impact we could have on our community if mature followers of Jesus had a plan for their faith to outlast their

lives because they were passing their faith on to other people.

Pray

Video of Hang Ringley sharing 2 Peter 1:2-11