

GROWING TOWARDS ASSURANCE

2 Peter 1:1-21 (ESV)

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.

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.

¹² Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. ¹³ I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder, ¹⁴ since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. ¹⁵ And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

¹⁶ For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," ¹⁸ we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹ And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰ knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

INTRODUCTION:

In a world filled with uncertainty, many Christians struggle with questions about their faith, spiritual growth, and future hope. The Apostle Peter writes to believers facing challenges and false teachings, reminding them that true assurance is not built upon feelings, circumstances, or personal achievements. Instead, our assurance is firmly rooted in Jesus Christ. In this passage, Peter highlights three important truths: our assurance is founded in Christ, our assurance grows in Christ, and our assurance is sure in Christ. As we reflect on these truths, let us examine whether our confidence is truly anchored in Christ and how God is calling us to grow in faith and maturity.

DISCUSS:

1. Our Assurance is Founded in Christ (vv. 1-4)

Peter begins this passage by reminding believers that we have received a precious faith through the righteousness of Jesus Christ. He emphasizes that God's divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness. Our assurance rests not on our own achievements or faithfulness, but on Christ's finished work and God's gracious promises.

When doubts, fears, or spiritual struggles arise, what truths about Christ and God's promises help us remember that our assurance is founded on Him rather than on our own performance?

2. Our Assurance Grows In Christ (vv. 5-11)

Peter urges believers to make every effort to grow in Christlikeness by adding to our faith virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection, and love. These qualities are the evidence of God's transforming work within us. As these qualities increasingly mark our lives, they strengthen our assurance and demonstrate that we are growing in Christ.

As you reflect on your spiritual journey, where have you seen Christ helping you grow in character and maturity?

3. Our Assurance Is Sure In Christ (vv 12-21)

Peter points believers to the trustworthy foundation of their faith, which is God's Word. God's Word is like a lamp shining in a dark place, providing guidance, clarity, and hope in a world filled with uncertainty and competing voices. Because Scripture comes from God and faithfully reveals Jesus Christ, believers can stand with confidence, knowing that their assurance is secure and sure in Christ.

When faced with uncertainty, confusion, or competing voices, how can God's Word help you remain confident in Christ and steadfast in your faith?

Pray:

1. Our Assurance is Founded in Christ:

Pray that we will rest confidently in Christ's finished work, trusting God's gracious calling and promises rather than our own strength or performance.

2. Our Assurance Grows In Christ:

Pray that the Holy Spirit will help us grow in virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection, and love, so that our lives increasingly reflect Christ and strengthen our assurance in Him.

3. Our Assurance Is Sure In Christ:

Pray that we will remain anchored in God's trustworthy Word, allowing it to guide us, strengthen our faith, and keep our assurance firm and sure in Christ.