

# Abounding Grace Christian Church

## A Study of the Second Epistle of Peter – Part 4

### I. Exposition of Chapter One (Continued).

A. Verse 8 – “For if these things are yours and abound, *you will be* neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

1. “For if these things are yours and abound...” – The things being referred to are the seven attributes mentioned in verses 5-7 which we’re to add to our faith. The word “abound” means; “become more and more; cause to increase; be in abundance, have in plenty”<sup>1</sup> Christians aren’t just to have these attributes but they’re to increase in them.

“Peter does not mean to imply that the believer is to cultivate each listed quality in turn, one after the other until all have been perfected. Instead, they are all to be cultivated simultaneously, in increasing measure. Peter has continuing spiritual growth in mind.”<sup>2</sup> - The NIV Study Bible

2. “...*you will be* neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
  - a. The word “barren” means; “pertaining to being useless, in the sense of accomplishing nothing”<sup>3</sup> Another definition is; “lazy, shunning the labor which one ought to perform,”<sup>4</sup> It’s found in five other places and is translated “idle” or “lazy.” (cf. Matthew 12:36; 20:3,6; I Timothy 5:13; Titus 1:12). This implies that if we don’t “abound”, or “increase” in these things, we are being lazy!
  - b. The word “unfruitful” means; “metaph. *not yielding what it ought to yield, destitute of good deeds...*”<sup>5</sup>
  - c. “...in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” – The word “knowledge” is the same Greek word we saw in verses 2 and 3. It has the idea of “Full (additional) knowledge”<sup>6</sup>

“For if these things are really yours and are continually increasing, they will keep you from becoming ineffective and unproductive in your pursuit of knowing our Lord Jesus Christ more intimately”<sup>7</sup> – The NET Bible

B. Verse 9 – “For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.”

1. “For he who lacks these things is shortsighted...” – The word “shortsighted” means; “to close the eyes, contract the eyelids, wink; to be nearsighted, partially blinded, slow to understand”<sup>8</sup> The opposite of this is, as we grow in these attributes, we become less and less slow to understand and our understanding and intimate knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ increases.
2. “...even to blindness...” – “pertaining to being unable to see”<sup>9</sup> and “not able to understand.”<sup>10</sup>

Roger Stronstad writes:

“Nearsightedness and blindness are not merely two distinct traits, but rather a downward journey.”<sup>11</sup>

3. “...and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.” Kenneth Wuest writes:

“‘Hath forgotten’ is in the Greek text literally, ‘having taken forgetfulness.’ ‘Purged’ is *katharismos*, (καθαρισμος,) ‘cleansing.’ This is the case of a saint who has wandered far from the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit. He is carrying around with him his justification, but not availing himself of his sanctification. He is not stone blind. He has some spiritual sight, but the light of the Word dazzles his sin-sick soul as he turns his dimmed, spiritual eyes away, a sad situation in which to be.”<sup>12</sup>

C. Verse 10 – “Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do

<sup>1</sup> James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

<sup>2</sup> *NIV Study Bible*, (Grand Rapids, MI, Zondervan Bible Publishers, 1985), 1899.

<sup>3</sup> Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 624.

<sup>4</sup> Joseph Henry Thayer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Being Grimm’s Wilke’s Clavis Novi Testamenti* (New York: Harper & Brothers., 1889), 72.

<sup>5</sup> Thayer, 21.

<sup>6</sup> A.T. Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1933), 2 Pe 1:8.

<sup>7</sup> Biblical Studies Press, *The NET Bible First Edition; Bible. English. NET Bible.; The NET Bible* (Biblical Studies Press, 2005), 2 Pe 1:8.

<sup>8</sup> William D. Mounce, *Mounce’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006), 1215.

<sup>9</sup> Louw and Nida, 280.

<sup>10</sup> James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

<sup>11</sup> *Full Life Bible Commentary to the New Testament*, French L. Arrington and Roger Stronstad, ed. (Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, 1999), 1469.

<sup>12</sup> Kenneth S. Wuest, *Wuest’s Word Studies from the Greek New Testament: For the English Reader*, vol. 12 (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997), 27.

these things you will never stumble;”

1. The word “diligent” is the verb form of the word found in **verse 5** and means; **“to do something with intense effort and motivation—‘to work hard, to do one’s best, to endeavor.’”**<sup>13</sup> It carries the idea of making something of high priority.<sup>14</sup>
2. **“...to make your call and election sure...”** – The word “call” means; **“the state of having been called to a particular task and/or relation”**<sup>15</sup> The word “election” means; **“the act of picking out, choosing.”**<sup>16</sup> There are those who believe that this “choosing” is solely at the discretion of God and by His sovereignty He elects some people to be saved and others not to be. Unfortunately, this is a very popular belief which is part of the theology of **“Calvinism.”** The Bible teaches that mankind has free will and that God’s election, or choosing of individuals for salvation, is based on His foreknowledge of what their decision will be.

**“Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.” – I Peter 1:1-2**

3. The word “sure” means; **“firm, stable, steadfast...; sure, certain, established”**<sup>17</sup>
4. **“...for if you do these things you will never stumble;”** – The word “stumble” means; **“to stumble, stagger, fall; to make a false step; met. to err, transgress,”**<sup>18</sup> This verse is saying that if we continue to be diligent (make it a high priority) to grow spiritually, increasing in the seven attributes given in **verses 5-7**, we will never fall, sin or transgress!

**“Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.” – II Peter 1:10 – English Standard Version (ESV).**

**D. Verse 11 – “...for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”** This is referring to the promise of rewards for believers who fulfill His plan for their lives. (cf. **I Corinthians 3:9-15; II Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:10**).

1. The reward for faithfulness. **Matthew 25:21-23.**
2. The reward of the crown of life for those who endure temptation. **James 1:12.**
3. The reward of the crown of glory for pastors who pastored the right way with the right motives. **I Peter 5:2-4.**
4. There’s a reward for keeping your body under subjection. **I Corinthians 9:25-27.** Kenneth Gangel writes:

**“The ultimate reward of a growing, Christ-honoring life is the personal ‘welcome’ by the Savior into His kingdom. Stephen experienced it (Acts 7:56); Paul knew when it was imminent for him (2 Tim. 4:7–8, 18); and every believer will experience such a welcome when he enters the Lord’s presence in heaven. You will receive a rich welcome is, literally, ‘the entrance will be supplied richly for you.’ ‘Supplied’ is from the verb *epichorēgeō*, translated ‘add’ in 2 Peter 1:5. The entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be supplied with richness; it will be a wonderful ‘welcome home.’”**<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Louw and Nida, 661.

<sup>14</sup> Peter H. Davids, *The Pillar New Testament Commentary; The Letters of 2 Peter and Jude*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2006)

<sup>15</sup> Ibid., 423.

<sup>16</sup> Thayer, 197.

<sup>17</sup> Mounce, 1106.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid., 1261.

<sup>19</sup> Kenneth O. Gangel, “2 Peter,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 867.