

BOOK OF 2 PETER  
MATURING IN CHRIST  
ADVANTAGES OF A MATURING CHRISTIAN LIFE-PT 2  
2 PETER 1:5-12

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**Introduction**

**There are enormous benefits or advantages to us applying all diligence in adding to our faith these precious ingredients in verses 5 through 7.**

It has nothing to do with just completing some kind of religious duty!

It has nothing to do with earning our standing before God with acts of righteousness!

Peter has already stated in **verse 1** that **the believer's righteousness is a supplied righteousness** that comes from God Himself, through Jesus Christ!

So it's not human righteousness at all. It's the *"righteousness of our God and our Saviour, Jesus Christ."*

**So, why do we need to add to our faith?** What are the reasons? Or should we say **what are the benefits or advantages of diligently adding these virtues to our faith?**

That's what we started looking at in **verses 8-12** last week.

**I. THE ADVANTAGE OF FRUIT! (Vs 8)**

**A. These Qualities Will Keep Our Lives From Being Barren! (Vs 8)**

The word *"barren"* means *"inactive, that is, unemployed; it implies that the person is lazy, useless:"*

We said **adding the qualities found in verses 5-7 to our faith keeps us from being "good for nothing" Christians.**

**B. These Qualities Will Keep Our Lives From Being Unfruitful. (Vs 8) (Cf. Matthew 21:18-19; Luke 13:6-9)**

The word *"unfruitful"* means *"barren of fruit."*  
That may sound redundant, but it is not!

**If you are barren of work, then you will be barren of fruit!**

**Living faith** is measured by **usefulness and by fruitfulness.**

Notice the conditions Peter lists in verse 8 - *"For if these things **be in you, and abound**, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful. . ."*

In other words, **our faith needs to be real and growing!**

*THE ADVANTAGE OF FRUIT!*

**II. THE ADVANTAGE OF FUNCTION! (Vs 9)**

The *"these things"* is still referring back to verses 5-7.

**A. A Faith That Is Not Growing Is Blind And Short-Sighted! (Vs 9a)**

**Seeing what's on his doorstep, but not what is coming down the road.**

**Living for the moment with goals all geared to this earthly life.**

His attention is focused **short-range rather than long-range.**

**B. A Faith That Is Not Growing Is Forgetful. (vs 9b)**

Peter warns against forgetfulness of the fact that we have been purged from our old sins. What is forgotten?

**1. The Aim Of Salvation Is Forgotten!**

Not only can this person **not see** forward to the end of this age, the coming of Jesus Christ, and the coming Judgment Seat of Christ, but he has forgotten the whole point of his conversion and the cross of Christ!

The Bible is very clear on the purpose of salvation:  
*Titus 2:14 - "...who gave Himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."*

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Peter says, if you don't apply all diligence to add the virtues of verses 5 to 7 to your faith, **you have simply forgotten God's plan in saving you.**

*The Aim Of Salvation Is Forgotten.*

**2. The Assurance Of Salvation Is Forgotten.**

When we don't grow in our Christian walk, it gives Satan an advantage over us.

He will keep dragging up the old sins that we were purged from, but that we continue to participate in and He will cause us to doubt our Salvation!

Two things should happen when we sin:

- a. **Peace Ends.** (Because we have the indwelling Holy Spirit to bring conviction.)
  
- b. **Chastisement Begins.** (Because we are the Children of God.)

*THE ADVANTAGE OF FRUIT!*  
*THE ADVANTAGE OF FUNCTION!*

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**III. THE ADVANTAGE OF FIRMNESS! (Vs 10)**

If we apply all diligence in adding these virtues to our faith, **we will grow in assurance and stability!**

**A. The Advantage Of Growing In Assurance! (Vs 10a)**

The subject Peter is dealing with in this verse is certainty. He's talking about how a Christian can be sure and certain--(i.e. How we can have deep assurance about our faith.)

And notice that he relates certainty, not just to knowing truth, but to practicing truth - "... for if ye do (or practice) these things..."

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Salvation is by grace through faith. But assurance is never obtained merely by thinking, or mentally remembering truth.

In the New Testament, **assurance is always linked to actions. We become sure as we do, as we obey, and as we apply the truth that we already know.**

Let's look at some verses and note their consistent teaching on this matter! **(1 John 2:3 ; 5-6; 3:14; 18-20)**

More passages could be added, but the point should stand out to us. **God loves us too much to allow us to feel saved when we don't act saved.**

**Assurance is the right of people who walk in the light, who renounce the flesh, who obey Jesus at all costs!**

Add these seven virtues we've looked at to your faith, grow in grace and holiness, apply all diligence to these pursuits, and you will know the joy of confidence before God!

*The Advantage Of Growing In Assurance!*

**B. The Advantage Of Growing In Stability! (Vs 10)**

Understand that here he is not speaking of falling from grace (which is impossible), but falling into sin and out of fellowship with God!

*1 Corinthians 15:58--"Therefore, my beloved brethren be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."*

*THE ADVANTAGE OF FRUIT! (Not useless or unfruitful)*  
*THE ADVANTAGE OF FUNCTION! (Not blind or shortsighted)*  
*THE ADVANTAGE OF FIRMNESS! (Stability and assurance)*

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**IV. THE ADVANTAGE OF FINISHING WELL! (Vs 11)**

Apply all diligence to add these virtues to your faith and you will find God's grace adequate when life on this earth fades away.

Let me sum it up this way. In **verse 8**, Peter talked about people who were short-sighted as they lived on this earth. Perhaps there is no greater example of that than right here in this eleventh verse.

There comes a time of *"entrance. . . into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ..."* (11).

The fact that Peter is not just talking about the initial point of being born again is backed up by the fact that the entrance he is describing is still in the future - *" . . .shall be ministered unto you abundantly. . ."*

Here is the utter folly of the short-sighted man: He is not thinking about the one thing coming at him that is unavoidable and final and decisive—He has to leave this earth by death or the rapture!

He has to leave all his treasures and loved ones behind! He then must face God all by himself! And it will be too late to change anything then!

*"Only one life, 'twill soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last."*

**Conclusion**

For the believer who is diligent about adding these things in verses 5-7 to his Christian life, Peter says **an abundant entrance will be supplied!**

Death for Peter wasn't **taking off on some unchartered voyage**. It wasn't **drifting off into the unknown**. Peter was sure of where he was going. A point of entry was ready for him. Because he had been applying all diligence to his faith, he had already been embracing the promises about heaven and eternity.

He had been planning for heaven! He had been meditating on heaven!  
He had been purifying his life in the light of this hope!  
He had already been setting his affections on things above!

And we both can and should do the same!

Let me close with some words from Martyn Lloyd-Jones that sums this matter up: *"Abundant entrance. What does it mean? It means something like this. The Christian who has responded to Peter's appeal and who has been giving all diligence to living a full Christian life, does not die full of regrets at his failures and shortcomings. He is rather one who can say with Paul, as he viewed his end, 'I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith, henceforth there is laid up for me a crown. . .'* That is the way the true Christian dies. He has been giving this diligence, he has been living the life, so he does not feel guilty. He does not feel that he has been wasting his time. He does not say, 'If only I could go back, I would do better.' There are no bitter regrets, he is sure of 'the abundant entrance."

And so, Peter urges us to apply all diligence growing in the virtues and graces of the Christian life. There are two ways of viewing this plea. Some will say, *"It costs so much. It seems to take all the time we have. Life is already busy, how much does God expect from me?"*

But others will look at those precious and magnificent promises.

They will see the prize and the Blessed Hope that lies before them.  
They will sense the reason they were put on this earth, and the reason Jesus came and died.

And they will know that, compared to all that this world could ever offer, **diligence in faith offers God's greatest reward in this life and in the life to come!**