

AN ABUNDANT ENTRANCE INTO HEAVEN
2 Peter 1:1-11

Introduction:

1. When a baby is born, it normally begins to grow.
 - a. It should grow physically, mentally, emotionally, socially, and spiritually.
 - b. In about 20 years it will be a fully grown adult.
 - c. If it fails to grow, we know something is seriously wrong.
2. Christians also must grow.
 - a. Baptism is our birth into the kingdom (John 3:3-5).
 - b. We must continue to grow all our lives (2 Pet. 3:18; Matt. 5:48).
3. Peter wrote to Christians exhorting them to grow.

Discussion:

- I. PETER PREFACED HIS EXHORTATION BY REMINDING US OF THE BLESSINGS WE HAVE IN CHRIST (1-4).
 - A. We have obtained a like precious faith with Peter.
 1. This is the “faith once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3).
 2. We received it by God’s righteousness {His way of making man right in His sight} by the Gospel (Rom. 1:16, 17).
 3. Through the Gospel, grace and peace come to us.
 - a. Grace is God’s unmerited favor.
 - b. We have peace with God through Christ.
 - c. As a result, we stand in God’s grace (Rom. 5:1, 2).
 - B. God’s power has given us everything we need for life and godliness (Acts 3:19).
 1. This comes to us through knowledge.
 2. The Scriptures provide all we need to be mature in Christ (2 Tim. 3:16, 17).
 - C. Through the Word we have “exceeding great and precious promises.”
 1. We are “partakers of the Divine Nature,” (we become like God as we feed on and apply His Word).
 2. This enables us to escape the corruption that comes from following worldly desires.
- II. WE MUST CONTINUE TO GROW BY ADDING THE CHRISTIAN GRACES (5-8).

A. Faith is the foundation.

1. Without faith we cannot please God (Heb 11:6).
2. Faith comes by hearing God's Word (Rom. 10:17).
3. We walk by faith (2 Cor. 5:7).
4. By faith we overcome the world (1 John 5:4, 5).

B. We must add virtue to our faith.

1. Virtue is courage, manliness, the determination to do right and serve God under all circumstances.
2. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego showed such courage when they refused to bow before the image (Dan. 3).
3. Esther showed such courage when she agreed to go unbidden before the king (Est. 4:16).

C. We must add knowledge to our virtue.

1. The knowledge of salvation is revealed in God's Word.
2. God's people were destroyed for lack of knowledge (Hos. 4:6).
3. The Hebrew Christians were falling away because they lacked knowledge to grow (Heb. 5:12).

D. We must add self- control to our knowledge.

1. We must learn to discipline ourselves by the Word of God.
2. When Paul "reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid...." (Acts 24:25).
3. Paul said: "I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified" (1 Cor. 9:27).

E. We must add perseverance to our self control.

1. Perseverance is "patience" (KJV) or "steadfastness."
2. "When the going gets tough, the tough get going."
3. Job persevered amidst all his trials even though his wife admonished him to "curse God and die" (Job 2:9, 10).

F. We must add godliness to our perseverance.

1. Godliness is being like God:
"...as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy'" (1 Pet. 1:15,16).
2. Enoch who "walked with God" was a godly man (Gen. 5:24).

G. We must add brotherly kindness to our godliness.

1. "Brotherly kindness" translates the Greek "philadelphia."
2. This is a compound word:
 - a. "Phileo" describes the love for one's friends, family.
 - b. "Adelphos" is the word for brother.

H. We must add love to our brotherly kindness.

1. "Love" is translated from the Greek "agape."
2. It is the highest form of love.
3. It loves the unlovable; it loves those who do not return the love.
4. It is the kind of love God has for us.

III. BLESSINGS RESULT FROM ADDING THESE GRACES (8-11).

A. One will be "neither barren nor unfruitful."

1. Christians will bear fruit if they have these graces in their lives (John 15:1-8).
2. Dorcas was "full of good works and charitable deeds which she did" (Acts 9:36).

B. The Christian who lacks these graces is:

1. "Shortsighted;" (lit. myopia) he cannot see what is ahead.
2. "Forgetful;" he has forgotten his new, pure state.

C. Adding these graces will "make our calling and election sure."

1. We will never stumble.
2. We will have an abundant entrance into Heaven!

Conclusion:

1. Don't you want to know that you are going to Heaven?
2. There can be no doubt if the Christian adds these graces to his life.
3. They are all encompassing; he will do and be what God requires.
4. There are two parts to our salvation:
 - a. Our calling is of God Who calls us through the Gospel (2 Thess. 2:14).
 - b. Our election involves both God's and man's part.
 - c. Marshall Keeble put it simply: "God casts one vote for you. The devil casts one vote against you. You cast the deciding vote."
5. Become a Christian by being born again (John 3:3-5).
6. Add the Christian graces so that you will be assured of an abundant entrance into the eternal kingdom.

