

**New Series: Last Days – 2 Peter  
“Marks of Spiritual Growth” – 2 Peter 1:8 – 11**

2 Peter 1:8 If all these things are in you and are growing, they will help you to be useful and productive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 But anyone who does not have these things cannot see clearly. He is blind and has forgotten that he was made clean from his past sins.

10 My brothers and sisters, try hard to be certain that you really are called and chosen by God. If you do all these things, you will never fall.

11 And you will be given a very great welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**Big Idea – A biblical precious faith will produce practical results in my life.**

Intro: Notice with me 3 evidences or marks of spiritual life and growth.

**1. Fruitfulness – vs. 8**

Peter says if you have “these things” (qualities of Christian character that make us more like Christ) it will result in us bearing fruit. That’s because the more we are like Christ, the more God will bless us with fruit in our lives. We become like Christ as we “abide” in Christ

John 15:1 – 8 speaks of “fruit...more fruit...much fruit!”

**What kind of fruit?**

**Fruit of the Holy Spirit’s controlling us**

Galatians 5:22 But the Spirit produces the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

23 gentleness, self-control. There is no law that says these things are wrong.

**Fruit of giving praise to God** - Hebrews 13:15 “sacrifice of praise

**Fruit of souls won to Christ** – Proverbs 11:30

## 2. Spiritual Sight – vs. 9

2 Cor. 4:4 says Satan blinds the minds of the unbelievers so the light of the Gospel of Christ won't shine on them. Why Jesus told Nicodemus "unless a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God"

Some Christians see only their own church or denomination or group, but fail to see the greatness and size of God's Kingdom around the world.

Some see the needs at home but fail to have a vision for the lost overseas. Phillips Brooks was asked what he would do to revive a dead church? He replied, "I would preach a missionary sermon and take up a collection!"

Jesus admonished His disciples, "Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest" (John 4:35).

Some congregations today are like the church at Laodicea: they are proud that they are "rich and increased with goods, and have need of nothing," and do not realize that they are "wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked" (Rev. 3:17).

It's a tragedy to be "spiritually nearsighted," but it's a greater tragedy to be blind!

If we forget what God has done for us, we will not be excited to share Christ with others. Through the blood of Jesus Christ we have been purged and forgiven! God has opened our eyes! Let's not forget what He has done!

Instead, let's cultivate gratitude in our hearts and sharpen our spiritual vision. Life is too brief and the needs of the world too great for God's people to be walking around with their eyes closed! If you walk around with your eyes closed, you will stumble!

## 3. Confident Security – vs. 10, 11

"be diligent" means "make every effort" or "try hard"

A growing Christian walks with confidence because he knows he is secure in Christ. It is not our profession of faith that guarantees that we are saved; it is our progression in the faith that gives us that assurance.

The person who claims to be a child of God but whose character and conduct give no evidence of spiritual growth is deceiving himself and heading for judgment.

Notice that "calling" and "election" go together. The same God who elects His people also ordains the means to call them. The two must go together.

Paul wrote to the Thessalonians: "God has from the beginning chosen you to salvation.... Whereunto He called you by our Gospel" (2 Thes. 2:13-14).

We don't preach election to unsaved people; we preach the Gospel. But God uses that Gospel to call sinners to repentance, and then those sinners discover that they were chosen by God!

"never stumble" doesn't mean never mess up! Peter messed up big time!  
It means never fall permanently, never stay down, never fall from grace, never quit or give up on Christ!

Doing "these things" gives evidence of your salvation and as we display Christian growth and character in our daily lives, then we can be sure we are converted and will one day be in heaven. Now some people will only get there "by the skin of their teeth" – Paul says in 1 Cor. 3:15 that some are saved "yet so as by fire"

Vs. 11 – But the growing Christian can look forward to "an abundant entrance" into the eternal kingdom! The Greeks used this phrase to describe the welcome given Olympic winners when they returned home.

word "ministered" - same as word "add" in 2 Peter 1:5, and is the translation of a Greek word that means "to bear the expenses of a chorus." When the Greek theatrical groups presented their dramas, somebody had to underwrite the expenses, which were very great. The word came to mean "to make lavish provision."

If we make lavish provision to grow spiritually (2 Peter 1:5), then God will make lavish provision for us when we enter heaven!

Think of the blessings the growing Christian enjoys: fruitfulness, spiritual vision, confident security - and heaven too!

The Christian life begins with faith, but that faith must lead to spiritual growth—unless it is dead faith. But dead faith is not saving faith (James 2:14-26).

Faith leads to growth and growth leads to practical results in life and service.

As we take communion together, thank the Lord Jesus Christ for His sacrifice on the cross to make you righteous, to make you like Him, to give you an abundant entrance into His everlasting kingdom.