

10: Fruitfulness, Vision, and Security (2 Peter 1:8-11)

Read 2 Peter 1:1-11.

Abounding spiritual growth begins with proper soil condition. Colossians 2:6-7 says, "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, **rooted** and **built up** in Him and **established** in the faith, as you have been taught, **abounding in it** with thanksgiving" (NKJV, emphasis mine). As you diligently work to cultivate the divine qualities you have been given, fruit will be produced. Proper vision of Christ's sacrifice and teachings enables you to press on towards maturity, offering security in the eternal.

Read Hosea 10:12. What is the danger of allowing your heart to become "fallow"? _____

Why is it necessary to sow righteousness in order to abound in your relationship with Christ? _____

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6.

Fruitfulness

Second Peter 1:8 says, "For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" (NKJV).

Read Galatians 5:22-25. Do you believe that these fruits are the results of your effort, or the work of God in your life? Do you believe the same of the character traits listed in 2 Peter 1:5-7? _____

Read John 15:1-8. With this in mind, what kind of ground bears fruit and produces? _____

Read Mark 4:20. What does this indicate about your involvement? _____

The cultivation of crops not only requires breaking up the ground to foster growth, it requires consistent care. To cultivate means "to improve by labor, care, or study; further, encourage."¹

¹ Merriam-Webster, Inc.: *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*. 9th ed. Springfield, Mass., U.S.A. : Merriam-Webster, 1985, 1983

Consider the growth process of a plant. How does a plant become barren and unfruitful? _____

What is the difference in the barren plant and the one that abounds in fruitfulness? What kind of effort was put into its development?

How can you foster growth in your relationship with Christ by these means? _____

Read John 12:24.

Vision

Second Peter 1:9 says, "*But those who fail to develop these virtues are blind or, at least, very shortsighted. They have already forgotten that God has cleansed them from their old life of sin.*"

A person who is blind can be identified in one of two ways: he is *unable* to see or *unwilling* to see. An individual who has vision sees the here and now with clarity and the future with certainty. Blindness is partly defined as "made or done without sight of certain objects or knowledge of certain facts that could serve for guidance."² Why did Christ come? Read Acts 26:18. _____

Read Titus 2:14. How does remembering Christ's sacrifice push us towards maturity? _____

Read Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23.

The stony places are shallow, lacking depth, much like shortsightedness. When tribulation and temptations come, how does a lack of foresight keep us from pressing forward in our development?

Similarly, an individual who lacks vision is often primarily concerned with his present state and temporal assets. Because his attention is not focused on developing Christ-like character traits, the thorns of the world choke out the Word.

Are there thorns in your life? Identify them. _____

² Ibid

Read Jeremiah 17:5-10.

Security

Second Peter 1:10-11 says, *"Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"* (NKJV).

Matthew 7:24-27 tells a story of one who made his *"call and election sure"* and of another who did not. When the test of their faith came, one stood strong and the other fell. What was different about their building technique? Read Luke 6:48. _____

Interestingly, the word for *"build"* in this passage means "to promote growth in Christian wisdom, affection, grace, virtue, holiness, blessedness; to grow in wisdom and piety."³

Peter is not suggesting that "if you do these [works]" God will supply you an abundant entrance into heaven (Ephesians 2:8-10), but that an individual filled with the evidences of God working can be sure that he will see his Savior face to face.

What was the secure house built upon? _____

Read 1 Peter 2:2-6.

In closing, read Ephesians 3:14-21.

³Strong, James: *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible: Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.* electronic ed. Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship., 1996, S. G3618