

## Connection to 2 Peter 1:1-11

Peter wrote his second letter to encourage “those who have obtained a faith of equal privilege with ours through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ” (1:1). Whereas his first letter focused largely on suffering, this second letter offered encouragement to grow in faithfulness to Christ, tackling the problem of false teachers and reminding his readers about the return of Christ.

## Introduction/Opening

If something is alive, it will grow and mature over time. We see this in our children or grandchildren. We can recall when they were just infants; now, they stand eye to eye with us! We may wish they could have remained young forever, but that’s not how life works—they must grow and mature. Growth is the natural product of life.

Peter taught that the same must be true for Christians. If we have been born again, we will—we must—grow in Christ. It is unnatural for those who have come to Christ to remain as spiritual babies and not mature. Peter wrote to encourage his readers to grow in their faith.

## Outline

- I. Grow by Sharing in the Divine Nature (2 Pet. 1:3-4)
  - a. Trust in God’s power. God called us to Himself “by His own glory and goodness.” By His divine power, He’s “given us everything required for life and godliness.” We can live godly lives because the power of God has equipped us “through the knowledge of Him who called us” (v. 3).
  - b. Trust in God’s promises. Not only do we have God’s power for living, we also have His “very great and precious promises” (v. 3). Through these promises we share in the divine nature. For example, if we trust Christ in that we have eternal life now, this means that the promise of eternal life for those who trust Christ qualifies us to be called the children of God (John 1:12-13). And through these promises we are able to escape “the corruption that is in the world because of evil desires” (v. 4). God’s promises are better than our desires.
- II. Grow by Supplementing Your Faith (2 Pet. 1:5-8)
  - a. Now that we believe in Christ, trusting in the power and promises of God, let’s add to this foundation of faith. Specifically, add a structure of faith-filled qualities such as goodness, godliness, self-control, brotherly affection, and love.
  - b. If these qualities are present and increasing in your life, Peter declared, “they will keep you from being useless or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ” (v. 8). Likewise, Paul noted that the “fruit of the Spirit” displays itself in

the life of believers through these qualities as well (Gal. 5:22-26). Supplement your faith by bearing the fruit of the Spirit, and you will be useful indeed as you grow in Christ.

- III. Grow by Standing Confident in Salvation (2 Pet. 1:9-11)
- a. We are not shortsighted, nor have we forgotten that we've been cleansed from our past sins. But we are confident that God started a good work in us and will be faithful to bring it to completion (Phil. 1:6). For this reason, Peter called on his readers to "make every effort to confirm your calling and election" (v. 10). He wanted his readers to be confident in the salvation that God had graciously given them.
  - b. Two things happen once we gain confidence in our salvation. First, we "will never stumble" (v. 10). The Lord does not want us to waver or doubt; rather, He wants our trust. If He started this work, He will finish it, and He's given us what we need (through His power and promises) to live in a way that is pleasing in His sight. Second, we gain "entry into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (v. 11). If He has chosen us and called us, He will bring us home to glory (Rom. 8:29-30). We can be confident in our salvation!

## Conclusion

Many people in our culture are obsessed with losing weight and looking younger. Many expect to have a vital transformation just by changing their diet. While this will certainly help, a healthy life and body require more to supplement the nutritional side of things: exercise. If you supplement your diet with exercise, the results will be astounding and long-lasting.

This is also true for our spiritual lives. We say we have faith, and that's great. But we must supplement our faith with a life lived according to God's power and promises. If we do, the results will be astounding and long-lasting.

---

*Dr. Micah Carter is Pastor of First Baptist Church in Ripley, Mississippi. He is married to Meredith, and they have two sons, Benjamin and Jonathan.*