

Making One's Calling and Election Sure

Part 2

“Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins. Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” (Peter 1:2-11)

The Lord had acted, but man need to respond; God had done His part and man now ought to cooperate and be responsible toward God. Our Lord sent His Son the Lord Jesus Christ, *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” (John 3:16-17)* And now man need to take the opportunity to respond to what Jesus had done on the cross to save us from our sins. Jesus suffered and died on the cross; His blood was shed as atonement to our sins. He was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give eternal life to those who believe in Him and follow His steps in their life.

Faith in Jesus should be manifested in the life of the believers by deeds and by achievements. Truly we are saved by God and not by any man work or favour, *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith -- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God -- not by works, so that no one can boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)* But after we had faith in Jesus we should do the work that God had prepared for us to do. *“For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:10)* Apostle Peter emphasized to the believers that they need to be effective and productive, and for this very reason God's Word recommend you to add to your faith the following:-

1- Goodness: God save us in order that after salvation we will start to serve Him, *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God -- this is your spiritual act of worship.” (Romans 12:1)* We ought to be effective workers for the Lord, therefore *“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15)*

2- Knowledge: The Bible tell us the following: *“My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge.” (Hosea 4:6a)* We need to know the Word of God on a good way so that we will be able to follow God's commands. We need to know the Word of God so that we can teach others His ways and disciple them according to the truth.

3- Self-control: Christians are called to overcome their sinful nature. We are not called to sin less but we are called to sin not. We need to stop when it come to sin. We need to control our mouth from speaking evil, our mind from thinking bad, and our eyes from seeing wrong things. Every part of our body ought to be under the control of the Holy Spirit and not our sinful nature.

4- Perseverance: We are called to maintain what we had achieved, *“Watch out that you do not lose what you have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully.” (2 John 8)* Some Christians their achievement are fluctuating, up and down. That should not be the case for you. You ought to persevere to keep the same level of achievement.

5- Godliness: As Christians we should know the doctrine and what we ought to stand for. We should labour in Word and in doctrines. *“Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.” (1 Timothy 4:16)* We ought to live what we believe and teach the way to others.

6- Brotherly Kindness: We ought to show kindness to one another. We need to care for one another, *“Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:2)* We ought to help those who are in need; we ought to support those who are in troubles. We ought to care for the widows, the orphans, the sick and those who are in old age. *“Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.” (Mathew 5:7)*

7- Love: We should persevere to love in the same way that Jesus love and gave His life sacrificially to others. *“And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.” (2 Corinthians 5:15)* Our love to others should not be conditional or arise out of interest or mutual benefit. We offer the same love of Christ to others, so that those who respond to our message they will become part of the family of God. And those who do not accept our message we need to continue to pray for them till they realize their wrong way of living, convicted by the Holy Spirit, repent and come back to God and be part of His family.

My Dear and Beloved: *“For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (2 Peter 1:8)* The above are great and valuable qualities that we need to possess. Don't be short sighted; work it out with God and make your calling and election sure and you will receive a rich welcome into the Eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried but rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord guide me with your truth and help me to add to my faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness and love. Help me Lord to posses those characters and qualities with increasing measures. Thank you Lord this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen*