

Making Your Calling and Election Sure 2 Peter 1:3 - 12

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 near sighted 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 Saviour Jesus Christ.”

God called Abraham - to leave land, his people and his family to go and start afresh.

He called Moses - to preside over the breaking of the bondage of 400 years of slavery, to provide outstanding leadership in the wilderness and bring the people to Cannan.

He called Isaiah to preach a message that the people would never listen to, He called Jonah to preach repentance to the Ninevites, and who complained when they did.

Jesus called very ordinary fishermen, a tax collector, a zealot terrorist, and a traitor who were to become disciples and proclaim the gospel after Jesus' ascension, He called the fiery academic Paul as a missionary to Asia and the Roman Empire

He successfully carried out this in his Life time all without the aid of the Internet. He still calls ordinary people today to follow and serve him in a multitude of roles to build his church and establish the kingdom of God.

He wants us each to know that call for ourselves - and in this passage he tells us how.

He initiates it all by his divine power in supplying everything we need for life and godliness as we grow to know him. That is an awesome statement, just think and try and get your head around it.

He is resource for everything we need. To help us appropriate this, he has given us very great and precious promises so that we can even participate in God's very nature so that the corruption of the world has less and less affect on us. Promises boxes used to be popular but have gone out of fashion.

My favourite promise is - he will never leave us or forsake us. By meditating on these promises his divine nature takes root and begins to grow in us.

Secondly is the part we play. For this reason, seeing his nature formed in us, make every effort to add to your faith Growing into maturity is not an instant transformation is it. Childhood lasts until our kids are at least 30. As the mainland add says good things take time. We do not automatically become mature, hence the word "childish" - used to describe children's behaviour still being exhibited in adults.

We grow into maturity by the choices we continue to make. So Peter describes how we play our part.

So choose goodness. The older versions render this word as virtue and the same word is translated admirable in PHIL 4v8. It conveys the meaning of living life well-being like fertile ground - fruitful promoting excellence and also being courageous.

People who live and work around you will notice.

Choose knowledge. This is information that helps us to daily make right decisions.

When we need to make important decisions who or where do we go to. A trivial pursuit expert will not fill the bill. This knowledge comes from the bible and from people who know the Bible.

Choose self-control. This means having control over our passions and appetites so that they don't control us. It is also a fruit of the Spirit and as we regularly ask God to fill us (daily) with the spirit the fruit of self-control should be evident.

Choose perseverance. Described as enduring patience. Jesus said he who endures to the end will be saved. Not popular in today's instant world. Be like a Pohutukawa tree hanging on to a cliff - tenacious.

Choose godliness. This is having the right attitude to God and the right attitude to people. It is not pious or goody goody, it is characterised by humbly serving God and humbly serving others.

Choose brotherly kindness. The Greek word is Philadelphia which literally loving your , brother. We should love others as we love ourselves. Read the Good Samaritan for a definition of who neighbour is. Be prepared to be trans cultural.

Finally chose love. I Cor 13 gives us the classic description of agape love. You know often the unloved people are also unlovely. Get all that homework reading.

Point 3 what is the outcome of following points 1 @ 2.

They will keep you from being ineffective and non-productive in your knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. These are business terms. Effective producing what you said you would produce to the correct specification productive - efficient using the least amount of labour, raw materials and time to get the product completed.

God has blessed us that in turn we can bless others and honour Him.
Eph4vv12,13,

Secondly if you do these things you will never fall and you will receive a rife welcome in heaven. Guarantee against backsliding and able to enjoy heaven.

Maybe this sounds a little bit like daunting. Being a Christian is not just about receiving it is also learning to be a giver. To give is more blessed than to receive.

God wants us to be givers. We sow in tears but reap with joy, the minute we desire to move closer to God He responds and draws near to us. Whatever effort we make and grow and be obedient, he empowers and resources us to accomplish what he has laid on our hearts to produce the most amazing outcomes.