

YE SHALL NEVER FALL, IF

Nicolas Edwards

Peter penned, *“Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall”* (2 Pet. 1:10). *“These things”* are the things listed in the context one is to add to his faith. Peter is writing to Christians: *“Them that have obtained like precious faith”* (1:1), the called (1:3), those purged from old sins (1:9), brethren (1:10). Peter is discussing this *“precious faith”* and the need to add to it (1:5-11). He emphasizes the need for spiritual security! *“...Make your calling and election sure...”* (1:10). From this text we learn several things.

CHRISTIANS CAN FALL.

The book of 2 Peter is an excellent book to refute the false teaching *“Once saved, always saved.”* Peter, by inspiration, says the Christian’s entrance into heaven is conditional (2 Pet. 1:10) — he shall never fall, if! That means if I do not do *“these things”*, I can and am going to fall. If it is impossible to fall and be lost, after being saved, then there is no need to do *“these things”* and make my calling and election sure.

I MUST ADD TO MY

FAITH. As a Christian, I must continue to grow (2 Pet. 3:18). This involves adding to my faith (2 Pet. 1:5). Faith is the foundation upon which we build. If we do not have a strong foundation, that which we add to it will not be strong! We need to be strong in faith like Abraham (Rom. 4:20). Faith comes by hearing the word of God (Rom. 10:17). Having strong faith we must build upon it by adding to it (2 Pet. 1:5-11). How? *“Giving all diligence”* (2 Pet. 1:5, 10). Adding to my faith, securing my calling and election, going to heaven, requires earnest effort! I am going to have to give it all I have got. Lazy people, who are minimalists, will not go to heaven. What am I to add to my faith?

1. **Virtue.** This is moral courage; the courage to oppose evil and stand up for what is right!
2. **Knowledge.** This means I must read and study the Bible. Be present for Bible study. Listen to the sermons preached. Increase our knowledge of the word (Jn. 8:32; Col. 1:9-10; 2 Pet. 3:18).
3. **Temperance.** Self control! I must control my thoughts, tongue, temper, actions, desires, always. Refrain yourself from doing wrong and make yourself do right!
4. **Patience.** This is endurance and perseverance. The ability to

remain under pressure. Do not be moved from the faith, but stand fast in the Lord no matter how difficult!

5. **Godliness.** This is not “God likeness” but reverence and deep piety for God demonstrated in obedience to Him.
6. **Brotherly kindness.** Simply loving and being kind to others.
7. **Charity.** This is love. Seek the best for others! Do not work ill (Rom. 13:10).

THE RESULTS. If I do these things:

1. I will not be barren (1:8).
2. I will be fruitful (1:8).
3. I am not blind spiritually (1:9).
4. I will never fall (1:10).
5. I will enter into heaven (1:11).

THE CONSEQUENCES IF I DO NOT DO THESE THINGS. If I lack these things:

1. I am not secure spiritually and am likely to fall.
2. I am barren.
3. I am unfruitful.
4. I am spiritually blind.
5. I will not go to heaven.

There are Christians who will be burned because they were unfruitful (Jn. 15:5-6). Not all Christians will go to heaven (Rev. 3:4). Our going to heaven is conditional — *“Ye shall never fall, if.”* It takes *“...Giving all diligence, add to your faith...”* (2 Pet. 1:5).

FAILING OF THE GRACE OF GOD

John Edwards

Did you know we can fail of God's grace? The Hebrew writer warned, "Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God..." (Heb. 12:15). We do not want to fail of the grace of God for we are saved (Acts 15:11; Eph. 2:5, 8; Titus 2:11) and justified by His grace (Rom. 3:24; Titus 3:7). Here are some ways we can fail of the grace of God:

NOT ENOUGH LOOKING.

We begin with the text. The first word is "Looking" (Heb. 12:15). John said, "Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward" (2 Jn. 8). We can lose our reward, if we don't do enough looking!

NOT ENOUGH DILIGENCE.

The writer of God said, "Looking diligently, lest any man fail of the grace of God..." (Heb. 12:15). God is "...a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Heb. 11:6). Peter penned: "...giving all diligence, add to your faith..." (2 Pet.

1:5). "...give diligence to make your calling and election sure..." (2 Pet. 1:10).

NOT ENOUGH

EXHORTING. Acts 11 reports when Barnabas was sent to Antioch: "Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all..." (v. 23). If it's not possible to fail of the grace of God, why send Barnabas? Hebrews 3:13 teaches, "But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."

NOT ENOUGH PURPOSE OF HEART. Barnabas exhorted Christians at Antioch, "...that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord" (Acts 11:23).

NOT ENOUGH CLEAVING.

The exhortation of Barnabas, from Acts 11:23, was "...that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord." This is to be steadfastly devoted to the Lord.

NOT ENOUGH

CONTINUING. Paul and Barnabas were persuading people "...to continue in the

grace of God" (Acts 13:43). No need to persuade people to continue in the grace of God, unless one can fail of the grace of God!

NOT ENOUGH LABOUR.

Paul wrote, "But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all..." (1 Cor. 15:10). If we can't fail of the grace of God, how could God's grace be bestowed in vain? Paul also declared, "We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain" (2 Cor. 6:1). The word "vain" suggests to no purpose. If we don't work enough, then God's grace is of no effect and results in nothing.

NOT ENOUGH DENYING AND LIVING. The Holy Spirit revealed, "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world" (Titus 2:11-12). If we live contrary to the teaching of the grace of God, then we will fail of His grace and not be saved!

The Terre Haute **SPEAKER** is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

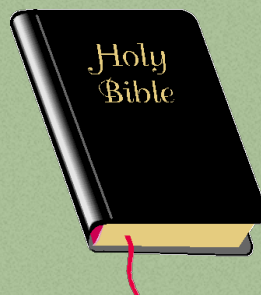
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