

# How To Keep From Falling (2 Peter 1:1-11)

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## Introduction

The Christian who knows the Bible knows that one can fall from \_\_\_\_\_ and be \_\_\_\_\_.

*For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame. (Hebrews 6:4-6)*

*My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins. (James 5:19-20)*

However, we should never live defeated for apostasy is not even \_\_\_\_\_. It can be completely avoided. How? 2 Peter 1:1-11 has this wonderful promise, "You will never stumble!" It says if we do these things called the "Christian Graces" we will never fall or become unfruitful. Let us be more \_\_\_\_\_ about our walk with God. Here are six things in 1 Peter 1:1-11 that keep us from falling...

### I. Depend On What God Has Done

God has granted to us some \_\_\_\_\_ promises! He has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our relationship with Jesus. The first step in staying faithful is always remembering what has done and what He continues to do for us (Ephesians 3:14-21)

*seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. (2 Peter 1:3-4)*

### II. Keep Your Objective In Mind

What is our objective as Christians? Peter put it this way: "you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust." (v. 4). When we are born again we are to become like God in His \_\_\_\_\_ nature. How? Through the power of the Spirit (Romans 8:9-14).

### III. Grow Spiritually

The Christian virtues (Christian Graces) in 1:5-7 describe a \_\_\_\_\_ of spiritual growth. The Christian life begins with saving faith, faith in the person of Jesus Christ. But when you know Jesus Christ personally, you also experience God's power, and this power produces "life and godliness" (spiritual growth).

Define each grace or virtue.

- 1) Moral Excellence
- 2) Knowledge
- 3) Self-Control (Temperance)
- 4) Patience (Perseverance)
- 5) Godliness
- 6) Brotherly Kindness
- 7) Love (Agape)

The spiritual growth \_\_\_\_\_ on you. For you to grow, you have to be \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 5). Spiritual growth is not automatic, nor is it a miraculous gift of the Holy Spirit given to you without your cooperation or consent.

#### **IV. Be Fruitful**

In our text spiritual growth is not an end in itself; it is a \_\_\_\_\_ to an end. The end is fruitfulness: *"For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

#### **V. Remember Our Cleansing**

In the next verse Peter said, *"For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins."* (1:9). If we appreciate what a \_\_\_\_\_ thing God did for us when He saved us, we will surely not be inclined to go back into the world.

#### **VI. Be Zealous**

Twice in this passage zeal is required. Verse 5 says, *"Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence [or do your best, be zealous] in your faith supply virtue."* Verse 10 says, *"be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you;"*

We speak of the assurance we have as Christians, and maybe we ought to speak of it more. We as Christians have every assurance that we are going to heaven, but we must be \_\_\_\_\_.

What will be the result if we are zealous about doing these things? Verse 11 says, *"For thus shall be richly supplied unto you the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."* God will not \_\_\_\_\_ us into the back door of heaven. The gates will open wide and we will be ushered in! This, too, is something done by God. We start with what God has done and now end with what God will do.