

“Bearing Fruit—Part 3”

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I concluded a three-part series about “Bearing Fruit.” (This was a follow-up to the series about the parable of the sower.)

The first study discussed scriptures by Paul (Romans 5:1-5), the second study discussed scriptures by James (James 3:13-18), and this study discussed scriptures by Peter.

Let’s look at the third presentation.

For this very reason

The beginning of 2 Peter 1:5 says: “For this very reason [do the following].”

What reason?

- 2 Peter 1:2—Grace and peace be multiplied in the knowledge of the Father and the Son.
- 2 Peter 1:3—Divine power has been given.
- 2 Peter 1:4—We can escape corruption of the flesh because we are partakers of divine nature.

Eight characteristics

- 2 Peter 1:5-7—Peter then instructs friends to diligently grow—listing eight characteristics that build upon each other.

I will paraphrase the eight characteristics with wording from the Amplified New Testament.

It begins with faith.

Exercise faith to develop virtue (excellence, resolution and Christian energy).

Exercise virtue to develop knowledge (intelligence).

Exercise knowledge to develop self-control.

Exercise self-control to develop steadfastness (patience, endurance).

Exercise steadfastness to develop godliness (piety).

Exercise godliness to develop brotherly affection.

Exercise brotherly affection to develop Christian love.

Positive consequence

Notice the positive consequence growing in the eight characteristics.

2 Peter 1:8—"For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Negative consequence

Notice the negative consequence of ignoring the eight characteristics.

2 Peter 1:9—"For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins."

Never stumble

Remember the benefit of diligence.

2 Peter 1:10—"Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble."

Everlasting kingdom

Remember the destination.

2 Peter 1:11—"An entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."