

Diligent

2 Peter 1:8-11

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A. The Race to Run (vs 8):

1. Faith, moral excellence, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love.
2. When we view the Word of God as sufficient (2 Peter 1:3-4) for every decision, it's challenging to sort through our godly character continuously superabounds so that we walk more in the Spirit less in the flesh (Ephesians 3:16-21; 5:15-18).
3. When believers abound in their spiritual maturity, they position themselves to never become unprofitable or inactive in their Christian faith. They are continuously engaged in the Word of God (does not return void; Isaiah 55:11 and is powerful; Hebrews 12:4), producing unlimited spiritual growth. This person also becomes a greater asset for the kingdom agenda of God. Peter who once denied Christ (did not accept what Christ was teaching) now an apostle, led the development of the New Testament church and is a writer of three books in the Bible and will sit on the twelve thrones of Israel forever (Matthew 19:27-30). This is the direct purpose and result for all believers to reflect on the Word of God for all their decision-making (2 Peter 1:3-4).
4. A believer who has genuinely accepted Christ, therefore, has received the Holy Spirit, must willfully, determinatively decide to apply the Word of God to every issue their encounter; whether this includes praying for wisdom (James 1:5-9) or seeking godly advice (Proverbs 11:14). This enables them not to live a carnal Christian life. Their spiritually maturing life continuously produces the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:19-26).
5. We develop Christian attributes because we have become bountiful in our spiritual maturity (2 Peter 1:5-7). This occurred because we determinatively decided to apply the Word of God to the day-to-day issues we encounter. This process empowers us to become more and more productive in our spiritual transformation, which causes us to experience a greater understanding of spiritual truths (Ephesians 4:16-21; Romans 12:2; Hebrews 5:14), strengthening our faith. The maturation process provides us with greater intimacy in our walk with the One who has all authority, power, and control over all circumstances. We, therefore, become overcoming conquerors especially since, during this process, nothing separates us from the love of God (Romans 8:37-39).

B. The Mindset to Avoid (vs. 9):

1. Some believers make absolutely no attempt to apply themselves to the spiritual maturation process described in verse 8. They become lukewarm or dull of hearing like Laodiceans or the believers in the Book of Hebrews. They come to church with no desire to engage in the spiritual developmental processes of the church. If they do try and it does not meet their expectations, they do not engage. They claim to know a lot while demonstrating they are infant Christians (1 Corinthians 3:1-2; Hebrews 5:11-13).
2. When believers become unable to discern spiritual things, they continually deteriorate in spiritual maturity. They become continuously more committed to a philosophical (not daily practicing the

application of God's Word) approach to issues they may encounter, which in turn limits them to a short-term approach to resolving issues. They entangle themselves needing immediate gratification rather than how their decisions affect their lives eternally.

3. After seeing all that Christ was accomplishing, Peter became short-sighted, telling Christ He would not die (Matthew 16:21-23). Peter also saw Christ's popularity rise and desire for Christ to establish His kingdom on earth (Mark 10:41-44) and was upset that he had given up everything to follow Christ (Matthew 19:27-30). Peter had to learn to remain sober in God's Word (1 Peter 1:13-16), not become swallowed up in pride (1 Peter 5:4-5), but remain firm in the faith (1 Peter 5:6-11).

C. Keep Practicing (vs. 10-11):

1. Because all believers are susceptible to becoming 'blind and short sighted as Peter did,' we must all make haste zealously (2 Timothy 2:20-26) endeavoring each day to search the scriptures so that by practicing the Word, we experience the powerful influence of the life of the Holy Spirit so the sinful nature of the flesh no longer overcomes us (Romans 6-8; Philippians 2:12-13). Even Christ, who is the Word, at the age of twelve, demonstrated passion for the Word of God that impacted His development (Luke 2:42-47; 52) and a zeal for the temple (John 2:17).
2. God offered salvation to everyone (John 3:16), but those who accepted Him (John 6:44) intimately experienced His selection into His eternal kingdom (Ephesians 1:3-14). It is such a blessing to be provided eternal life (especially as a Gentile); it should excite every believer to make every effort continuously (this should be our passion) to chase after God (Luke 12:31-34).
3. On their own initiative, a believer must determinatively decide to apply God's Word repetitively every moment of every day. This is the mindset that Christ challenged His disciples to maintain when, before He was crucified. He told them to abide in His Word because this allows them to experience His objective, a friendship (John 15:1-17), and "life and life abundantly."
4. God's Word, all by itself, never returns void (Isaiah 55:11); it's true (John 14:16-17; Hebrews 6:18), powerful (Hebrews 4:12), and enduring (1 Peter 1:24-25). Therefore, those who willfully decide to abide in it can never have disastrous lives or not be able to work out their salvation because it becomes impossible to fall short of achieving God's standards and, therefore, sin.
5. When a believer is purposeful about their spiritual growth, as described above so that they experience "life and life abundantly" (John 10:10) and are friends of Christ (John 15:13), on the day these believers arrive before the Lord God, they will be a tremendous rewards furnished to these saints.