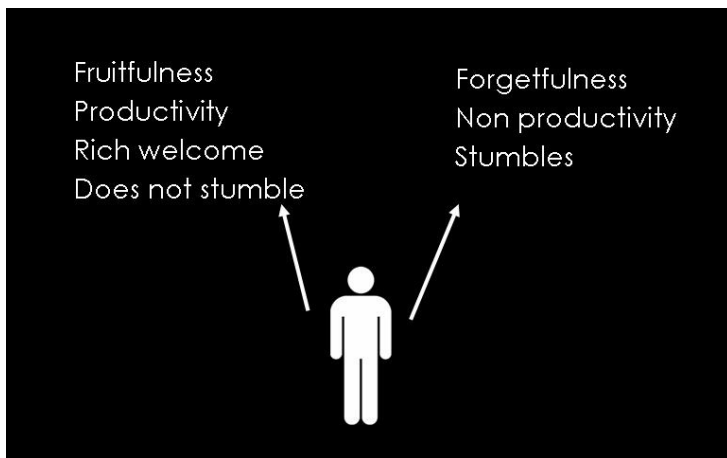


Eyewitnesses to Majestic Spendor
2 Peter 1:16-21

¹⁶ For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," ¹⁸ we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹ And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰ knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.



I change as I continually related to the triune God on the basis of the finished work of Christ on the cross and, in turn, pursue character development (1:5-7):

1. To confirm the joy of the assurance of my salvation. (v. 10)
2. To advance the kingdom of God. (v. 8)
3. To live with hope. (v. 11)

Regarding hope: "Whereas those without Christ are without God and without hope, living already in a dusk of the spirit that is destined to grow darker and colder, Christians are in the sunshine, endlessly rejoicing in "Christ Jesus our hope" (Ephesians 2:11-13). The inescapable alternatives are false hope, or else no hope, or else Christian hope, the electrifying knowledge of "Christ in you the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27)."

J.I. Packer, *Celebrating the Saving Work of God*, pp. 33-34

Fruitfulness underscores the assurance of our salvation. It doesn't save us but it is a sign. Fruitfulness gives us the assurance of salvation. "THEREFORE" BECOMES THE DUTY OF EVERYONE TO BE AS DILIGENT AS POSSIBLE IN MAKING THIS CALLING AND ELECTION SURE. BY DOING THIS, YOU WILL EXPERIENCE GREATER PEACE AND JOY IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, GREATER LOVE AND THANKFULNESS TO GOD, AND AN INCREASED STRENGTH AND CHEERFULNESS IN DUTIFUL OBEDIENCE. THESE THINGS ARE THE NATURAL OUTCOME OF THE ASSURANCE OF SALVATION, AND THEY CAN CONSTITUTE STRONG EVIDENCE THAT ASSURANCE DOES NOT LEAD MEN INTO LOOSE LIVING.

1689 Confession of Faith, 18-3

Ash Wednesday

Religious repentance: to earn God's favor

Biblical repentance (the gospel). We repent to repeatedly tap into the joy of our union with Christ in order to weaken our need to do anything contrary to God's heart and my happiness.

*The historicity of the Christian faith: "But we were eyewitnesses of his majesty". (v. 16) Note the centrality of history in the person of Christ and as compared to the scoffing/mockings of the false teachers. (3:3-7)

*The prophetic word more fully confirmed.

Friedrich Schleiermacher (1768-1834) "came forward to assert that religion (the Christian faith) is primarily not a matter of doctrine but rather a feeling, intuition, and experience...Instead of a straight denial of Scripture truths, Schleiermacher simply did away with a need for revealed truth and for an authoritative rule of faith. Christian experience consists of life not doctrine. It derives from Christ, to be sure, but it is Christ within, not Christ revealed in Scripture and by the Holy Spirit."

Iain Murray, *Evangelicalism Divided*, p. 5, 8

"How do you overcome? You get a breathtaking glimpse of God and the Lamb. You take your eyes off your earthly situation and gaze into heaven and see what true reality looks like. No matter the problem, what is most needful is to see God in His glory."

Kevin DeYoung and Ted Kluck, quoted in *Redeeming Church Conflicts*, p. 23