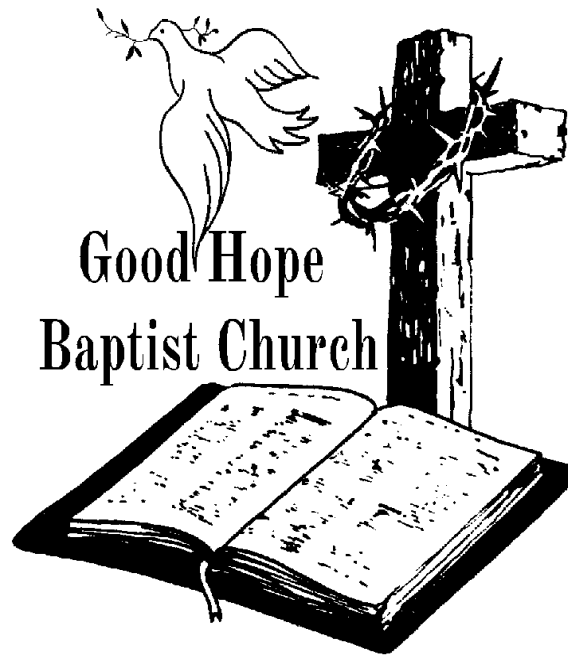


Make Sure

2 Peter 1:10



Good Hope
Baptist Church

Living Together In The Love Of God

4038 Graham Sherron Rd
Wake Forest, NC 27587

Pastor David Buffaloe
Home 919-562-9456 Cell 919-600-4925
online at bibleteacher.org

FOCAL Read Responsively 2 Peter 1:10 ^(KJV) Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: **for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:**

One of the most popular Rock and Roll bands of all time was called *The Beatles*. One of the members of that band, an outspoken Atheist by the name of John Lennon, said:

"Christianity will go. It will vanish and shrink. I needn't argue about that; I'm right, and I will be proved right. We are more popular than Jesus now; I don't know which will go first -- Rock and Roll or Christianity. Jesus was all right, but his disciples were thick and ordinary. It's them twisting it that ruins it for me."

Christianity remains, though John Lennon has gone, shot down by a psychopath on the streets of New York City in 1980. People are always proclaiming that Christianity will fall. When the Lord established us in Jerusalem over 2000 years ago, the Roman Empire said that it would fall. Rome fell, but Christianity marched on. For over 2000 years rulers and skeptics have declared that Christianity would fall. Christianity cannot fall, for it's Founder - the Lord Jesus Christ - is not only the **Author and Finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2)**, but He is also the **Author and Creator of the Universe**. The Bible says:

Colossians 1:16-18 ^(KJV) For by {Jesus} were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or

dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church: ...

Christianity will never fall, and neither will the Church nor the Christian who submits to Him as Head.

1. If I Am A Christian I Cannot Fall

Illustrate The American Broadcasting Corporation ran a poll on religion in America in 2002. They asked a random national sample of 1,022 adults **"What, if anything, is your religion?"** They found that **83% of those polled claimed to be Christians.** Now, if 83% of our country's population is actually Christians, then wouldn't you expect the *environment of society* to be a little different? Wouldn't there be less crime is only 17% of our country was unsaved? Wouldn't there be less abortion? Wouldn't there be less greed, less overt evil? Just simply, **wouldn't people be nicer to one another if only 17% are without Christ?** Christianity is a faith that promotes - first and foremost - love and the spreading of love. It's all about FAMILY and adding to the FAMILY by FAITH.

The truth is, we can deceive ourselves. I deceived myself for many years before I came to the Lord Jesus. I was raised up in the Presbyterian Church, a good group of Christian people. I studied my catechisms, stepped forward, was confirmed, and baptized. It was nobody's fault but mine - I did all that and *and never met Jesus*. It was not until 7 years later at a Youth Rally that I came

face to face with the Risen Savior, and my life was never the same.

The Apostle Peter is calling to us today not to accuse us, but to as each one of us *in our own hearts* to make sure that we are saved. Have you met Jesus? That's a question that only you can answer for yourself. Read with me:

FOCAL 2 Peter 1:10 ^(KJV) **Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:**

Word Study Look at the phrase **"give diligence to make your calling and election sure"**. The *Holman Christian Standard Version* translates this phrase as **"make every effort to confirm your calling and election"**. This isn't saying "work your way to God", for salvation is not by works - the Scripture makes that very clear. We are told:

Titus 3:5-7 ^(KJV) Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; 6 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior; 7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Illustrate My friend, you can no more be saved by your works than you can empty the ocean with a thimble! Salvation is all of God.

A Christian not only *hears* but *answers* the CALL to salvation. Once saved, Christians have *purpose*. We are ELECTED or *chosen* by God to both *be like* as well as *represent* Christ on this earth.

Our God is **not the Author of Confusion, but of peace (1 Corinthians 14:33)**. He is the God of order. He doesn't call someone to salvation, then allow them to wander aimlessly. We see this in the life of the early Apostles. Our Lord Jesus CALLED them then ELECTED them. He CALLED them to His side, and then gave them purpose, saying:

Matthew 4:19-20 ^(KJV) {Jesus said} **Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. 20 And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.**

That is salvation in a nutshell! Jesus said, "**Follow Me, and I WILL MAKE you ..**" And what happened? **They STRAIGHTWAY left their nets and followed Him.**

The Apostle Peter is asking each and every person today to **make sure that you belong to Jesus**. Ask yourself, "Am I truly saved?" I am not to ask that question of you, but I am to ask it of myself. I am supposed to look at *my life* and evaluate "**am I a Son of God?**"

There is a difference between "assumption" and "reality". Don't just "assume" you're a Christian. Make sure. Examine your life in the light of the Scripture.

Illustrate Assumptions can embarrass you. Several years

ago I took my wife to a German Restaurant for some schnitzel. Before we left the house I made sure that I had my wallet. That's so embarrassing - get to a restaurant and have no wallet. Anyway, we finished eating, and I asked for the bill. When the waitress brought it I pulled out my checkbook. "**I'm sorry, sir, we don't take checks**". I said, "**No problem, I'll give you my credit card.**" She replied, "**I'm sorry, we don't take that either.**" I felt like asking, "What do you want me to do - dance for my meal?", but I didn't. Instead I asked, "**Well, what do you take?**" She said, "**Cash only, please. There's a sign is on the door.**" I informed her that I had no cash and, embarrassed, I left my wife hostage while I ran to the ATM for some cash. Since she's here today you know I paid my bill and bailed her out. Ever since then when I go to a strange or new restaurant I always pay attention to the *signs* that are posted. I make sure I have my wallet, but more importantly make sure that I have what I need to pay my bill.

Too many people in the world today assume that they are going to Heaven and that they are Christians. They're deceiving themselves. They may have their wallets, and may have many means of making payment in that wallet. **But the Door of Heaven has a sign on it saying, "Jesus only accepted here"**.

2. What Does A Christian Look Like?

Illustrate What does a Christian look like? **Pastor Ted Traylor of Olive Baptist Church** said that he went into a restaurant one day with some fellow pastors, and no too far away he saw three young people with various

piercings in their ears, noses, and lips. Ted said that he began to - in his heart - judge these three young people. **"What a silly look that is? How can they stand to be that way? What's wrong with them?"** He said that - in the next few minutes - he began to be ashamed of himself. As these young people talked one asked, **"I wonder who wrote the Book of Daniel? Was it Daniel?"** His friend replied, **"Yes, it was. Here, let me show you."** All three young men pulled out their Bibles and - without shame - began to study them in the midst of the restaurant. **Pastor Traylor** went on to say, **"I would never dress like those young people, but the outside does not make the Christian. Faith is a matter of the heart."**

That is so very true. God says:

1 Samuel 16:7 ^(NIV) **The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart ...**

There are all different types of Christians. Big, small, fat, thin, male, female, bikers, bankers, cowboys, black, white, yellow, red... the list is endless. What do these people have in common? They love the Lord Jesus Christ and have given their hearts to Him!

Christians have a **common faith in an uncommon God! We have a "like precious" faith.** That's what Peter says.

CONTEXT **2 Peter 1:1** ^(KJV) **Simon Peter, a servant**

and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have OBTAINED LIKE PRECIOUS FAITH with us through the righteousness of God and our Savior Jesus Christ:

Word Study It is a **LIKE PRECIOUS** faith. The words translated "like precious" is the Greek (ισοτιμος pronounced *ee-sot'-ee-mos*), which means **"of equal value or honor"**. This faith is - according to the text - **"OBTAINED"**. We receive it as a gift from God **through the righteousness of God and our Savior Jesus Christ.**

Every Christian has a common experience with God. God calls to us in our hearts, and we come to Him by faith. It is a **word of Faith** that we have all responded to.

Romans 10:8-11 ^(KJV) **... The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; 9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.**

Illustrate Saving faith begins when we hear the call of God and, responding to that call, we follow Him in our hearts. This is a *heart thing* - our first feeble cry of faith to God is answered by the Holy Spirit, Who gives us *more faith*. **There are probably some seekers here today who have not made a decision to give**

themselves to Jesus. I beg you, keep your eyes on Him. There are few people who do not know the name **Judas Iscariot**. Jesus called Judas, just as He called the other disciples. **Yet Judas fixed his attention not on Jesus, but on money.** He came to Church for the money! He followed Jesus so he could get his hands on the disciple's money (see **John 12:6**). Judas was so fixated on money that he ended up selling Jesus to His enemies for **thirty pieces of silver** (see **Matthew 26:15**). Judas listened to the Best Preacher Who ever lived, our Lord Jesus Christ. He was there every time the doors of Christ's Church opened. He sat on the front row. Yet Judas died in his sins, **the son of perdition** (**John 17:12**) and according to Jesus **a devil** (**John 6:70**).

Oh, how we can deceive ourselves! There was a time in my life when I was unsaved and before I met my wife Sherry that I went to Church not to meet Jesus, but to meet girls. Some people come to Church so they can move up the administrative ladder and "be in charge" of something. When I was little I remember women in my mother's "Circle" talking about coming to Church to show off their new hats or clothes.

If we are Christians the reason we come to Church is not for money, fashion, power, nor any other thing than this: We want to know more about Jesus. We want to know more about our Lord!

Peter learned what he knew about Jesus in Church. He tells us:

CONTEXT 2 Peter 1:16-17 (KJV) For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For he received from God the Father honor and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

One day Jesus came to **Peter, James, and John** and said, "**Come on boys - let's go to the mountain**". I want to put a plug in for Sunday School right here. You know, Church is great, but so is **small group Bible study**. There's nothing like a small group getting together to know more about Jesus. That's what **Sunday School** is. I wish you all did that. All right, back to the mountain.

Jesus takes **Peter, James, and John** up to a local mountain, and while on the mountaintop they see **Jesus transfigured to His Heavenly glory**. I can only imagine how that looked. As they watched the Great Prophets Elijah and Moses came up and began to talk to Jesus. After this wonderful - almost Heavenly event occurs - and Jesus comes back to His three disciples Peter pipes up:

Luke 9:33 (KJV) ... Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah: not knowing what he said.

The Bible says **Peter said this, not knowing what he**

said. It was then that the Father said from Heaven:

"This is My Beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased."

If you are a Christian then Jesus isn't "just another Prophet". God has revealed to your heart **His majesty**. It is because of Jesus that we have

CONTEXT 2 Peter 1:4 (KJV) ... exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Dear Christians, we are **partakers of the Divine Nature**. We are called into the Family of God by God Himself. **What does a Christian look like?** We all look different on the outside, but on the inside we love Jesus. **What will a Christian look like?** We are elected - chosen by God - to be like Jesus!

You remember that I said that Jesus took **Peter, James, and John** to the Mount of Transfiguration? The **Apostle John** wrote:

1 John 3:2 (NIV) Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

This is our election - our calling - to be like Jesus.

3. If I Am A Christian Then I Am To "Add To My Faith"

When a child is born into this world, if the child is normal he will grow. It is abnormal for a child of Adam or a Child of God *not* to grow. **We who believe in Jesus are to ADD TO OUR FAITH.**

CONTEXT 2 Peter 1:5 (KJV) giving all diligence, add to your faith ...

Word Study The Apostle says "add to" your faith. "Add to" is the Greek (ἐπιχορηγέω **Pronounced ep-ee-khor-ayg-eh'-o**) A living faith is a growing faith. It progresses. If we are saved we will **add to our faith**. What adds to our faith?

2 Peter 1:5 (KJV) And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue

1 Add to your faith **VIRTUE** or **GOODNESS**. Jesus did good things, and His Children by faith should do good things. The Psalmist said:

Psalms 34:13-14 (KJV) Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. 14 Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

Do good with your lips. How often did you see Jesus running about badmouthing other people? Did Jesus murmur, or curse, or blaspheme God? Was He a gossip? No, none of it. Jesus Christ was an encourager, an uplifter, a builder, not a wrecking ball. You can HEAL or

you can KILL with your tongue. See that you HEAL.

Illustrate In the book, *The Power of Positive Prophecies*, a man named **Michael** wrote

“I grew up in an alcoholic household where I never heard a positive word. On my way home from school I would always stop in at Jimmy’s, the local dry cleaner, because he kept candy on the counter. He ... told me one afternoon, ‘Michael, you are a very smart boy. Someday you are going to run a very big business.’ I would listen to him in disbelief and return home only to get called a ‘dog’ and knocked around by my dad ... Jimmy the dry cleaner was the only person I can remember believing in me. Today I run a multimillion-dollar health care organization, just like Jimmy predicted. I guess you could say that a dry cleaner was the prophet in my life.”

Christians rarely attack one another with their fists, but if tonguing were a martial art, many of us should have black belts! Jesus used His tongue to share the Word of God, to encourage the lost to come to Him and be saved, and to rebuke and correct the self righteous. We need to follow His pattern!

CONTEXT 2 Peter 1:5 ^(KJV) giving all diligence, add to your faith knowledge

2 Add to your faith **KNOWLEDGE**. Read the Word of God. So many people tell me that they don't read the Word because they don't understand it. So what? When I was in the military I often read manuals that I didn't

understand - I still don't understand *variable bandwidth quantization*. But you'll never understand it until you read it.

Peter was at the Mount of Transfiguration, but said "we (Christians) have a **MORE SURE Word of Prophecy**" than what he, James, and John saw. **We have the Word of God!** Peter said:

2 Peter 1:20-21 ^(KJV) no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

Peter says, "I, John, and James saw Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration - but WE - His Church - have a **MORE SURE Word of Prophecy**". We have God's Word.

We have God's Word, the Holy Bible. The Bible was written by God the Holy Spirit. And we, as God's children, are indwelt by His Spirit. As we read His Word we may not understand it, but as we read His Word the Lord has promised us that:

John 16:13-14 ^(KJV) Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. 14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

If you'll read it, God will teach it to you. Read and pray, dear Christian, and add to your faith.

CONTEXT 2 Peter 1:6 ^(KJV) **add to your faith ... temperance**

3 Add to your faith TEMPERANCE.

Too often Christians are known more for what they're *against* than what they are *for*.

Illustrate When I was first saved, I went to a local Christian Bookstore. I was brand new to the faith, and wanted to buy a study Bible. I chose a *Dakes Study Bible*, which by the way, is an excellent Bible. At the same time I saw a little wooden Cross on a leather thong, and bought that to wear around my neck. When I went to Church that night some Christians came up to me. **"You know, the Bible says "a woman must not wear men's clothing, nor a man wear women's clothing, for the Lord detests those who do this" (Deuteronomy 22:5).** They berated me for wearing the simple Cross, so embarrassed I took it off and threw it away. A few years later after entering the ministry I had another Pastor mock me for carrying a Dake's Study Bible. **"Well, Dake was a *Pentecostal* - what are you doing with that Bible?"**

For the record, there is nothing wrong with a man wearing a simple Cross, nor with anyone using a Dake's Study Bible. Self righteous Christians often dig laws out of the Mosaic Code and twist them into something that God never meant them to be. This is no more than self righteousness.

Christians are not supposed to be so tolerant that we swallow every poison the world offers, nor are we to be so intemperate and uptight that we squeeze the joy out of life. Let love be your guide!

CONTEXT 2 Peter 1:6-7 ^(KJV) **giving all diligence, add to your faith ... patience; and to patience godliness; 7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.**

4 Add to your faith PATIENCE, GODLINESS, BROTHERLY KINDNESS, and LOVE.

I wish I had time to cover each of these things in detail, but I don't. We must be **patient** with one another, for we who are Christians are called to **grow together to be like Jesus**. Just as every plant in the field doesn't grow at the same rate, Christians don't grow at the same rate. Older believers, keep modeling Christ to the younger believers. **Be godly, like Christ**. Younger believers, pay attention to what your elders are saying - and compare what they say to the Word of God. The Apostle Paul said it this way:

Ephesians 4:30-32 ^(NIV) ... do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

It grieves God when we do not work together. Not only

that, it ruins the witness of Christ. We who are saved are Advertisements for Christ.

Illustrate I love to read the Peanuts cartoons. In one cartoon Lucy tell Charlie, "**Our family has solidarity! And our family has loyalty and**"... At that moment Linus walks over to Charlie and Lucy hoping to get in on the conversation. Lucy stops talking to Charlie to yell at Linus, "**Why don't you stop dragging that stupid blanket around, you blockhead!**" She turns back to Charlie, saying "**and this family has love for one another.**"

Our Lord Jesus said:

John 13:35^(NIV) "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Our faith will never reach others if we do not **add to it the things that God says we should add to it**. Peter says:

CONTEXT 2 Peter 1:9 ^(KJV) ... **But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.**

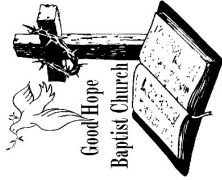
None of us deserve the salvation we have. If you are saved, you have **heard and responded to His call**. You have been **elected, chosen** to be like Jesus. Jesus says, "**Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men. Follow Me, and we will change the world!**"

Closing Remark A young boy strayed from his home in

a small town in Maine. It was a cold day and snow was falling. When the parents discovered that the child was missing, they first began to search for him. When he couldn't be found they called on the town to help. People went about in a dozen different directions looking for the child, but to no avail. Finally someone took charge, saying "Let's all join hands and walk through the fields together - I believe we can find that child". That's what they did. Walking hand in hand, driven by love, they moved across the fields, until they found the child. It was too late. The little boy lay, curled u in a ball, with no life left in him. As the parents wept, someone said, "**Oh, if we had only joined hands sooner, we could have done some good.**"

If you are a Christian then join hands with me and the other brothers and sisters you have in Jesus. Let's reach the world for Christ. If you are not a Christian, today is the day the Lord calls to you, "**Come follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men**".

May God touch your hearts with His Word.



Good Hope
Baptist Church

4038 Graham Sherron Road
Wake Forrest, NC 27587

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Living Together In The Love Of God

FOCAL Read Responsively 2 Peter 1:10 ^(KJV)

Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: **for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:**

Colossians 1:16-18 _____

1. If I Am A Christian I Cannot Fall

2 Peter 1:10; Titus 3:5-7; 1 Corinthians 14:33; Matthew 4:19-20;

Word Study Look at the phrase "give diligence to make your calling and election sure". The *Holman Christian Standard Version* translates this phrase as "make every effort to confirm your calling and election".

There is a difference between "assumption" and "reality". Don't just "assume" you're a Christian. Make sure. Examine your life in the light of the Scripture.

2. What Does A Christian Look Like?

1 Samuel 16:7; 2 Peter 1:1; Romans 10:8-11; John 12:6; Matthew 26:15; John 17:12; John 6:70; 2 Peter 1:16-17; Luke 9:33; 2 Peter 1:4; 1 John 3:2

Word Study It is a **LIKE PRECIOUS** faith. The words translated "like precious" is the Greek (ισοτιμος pronounced ee-sot'-ee-

mos) _____

3. If I Am A Christian Then I Am To "Add To My Faith"

2 Peter 1:5-7; Psalms 34:13-14; 2 Peter 1:20-21; John 16:13-14; Ephesians 4:30-32; John 13:35; 2 Peter 1:9

Word Study The Apostle says "add to" your faith. "Add to" is the Greek (επιχορηγω **Pronounced ep-ee-khor-ayg-eh'-o**)

1 Add to your faith _____

2 Add to your faith _____

Peter says, "I, John, and James saw Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration - but WE - His Church - have a **MORE SURE Word of Prophecy**". We have God's Word.

3 Add to your faith _____

4 Add to your faith _____

Additional Notes _____

