2 Peter 1:7-11 Benefits of Spiritual Growth

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The past few weeks in our bible study we've focused on eight spiritual traits or qualities Peter emphasized we should build into our lives:

> 2 Peter 1:5 NKJV - But also for this very reason, giving all **diligence**, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,
> 2 Peter 1:6 NKJV - to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness,
> 2 Peter 1:7 NKJV - to godliness, brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.

Tonight we'll look at the benefits that come with growing and abounding in these spiritual traits.

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

> **"Things"** are rendered "qualities" in ESV (English Standard Version), CSB (Christian Standard Bible), NASB (New American Standard Bible), and the NIV (New International Version.
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> **Abound** = G4121 = πλεονάζω pleonázō, pleh-on-ad'-zo; from G4119; to do, make or be more, i.e. increase (transitively or intransitively); by extension, to superabound:—abound, abundant, make to increase, have over.
> **The KJV translates Strong's G4121 in the following manner:** abound (6x), abundant (1x), have over (1x), make to increase (1x).
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> From Outline of Biblical Usage:
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> I. to superabound
> A. of things
> 1. to exist in abundance
> 2. to increase
> 3. be augmented
> II. to make to increase: one in a thing
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> Other scriptures with "abound":
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> Philippians 4:17 NKJV - Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account.
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> 1 Thessalonians 3:12 NKJV - And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we [do] to you,
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> 2 Thessalonians 1:3 NKJV - We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other,

Barren = G692 = ἀργός argós, ar-gos'; from G1 (as a negative particle) and G2041; inactive, i.e. unemployed; (by implication) lazy, useless:—barren, idle, slow.
The KJV translates Strong's G692 in the following manner: idle (6x), slow (1x), barren (1x).

From Outline of Biblical Usage:

I. free from labour, at leisure
II. lazy, shunning the labour which one ought to perform

Warren Wiersbe in his commentary says this word can also mean “ineffective”. He goes on to say that we have these qualities within us due to having God’s holy spirit, but if we don’t put them to use (Because we are lazy?) we will not produce spiritual fruit. Ie we are unfruitful. BUT we are to be fruitful!

Jesus told us
John 15:8 NKJV - "By this My Father is glorified, **that you bear much fruit**; so you will be My disciples.

John 15:16 NKJV - "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you **that you should go and bear fruit, and [that] your fruit should remain**, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

Unfruitful = G175 = ἄκαρπος ákarpos, ak'-ar-pos; from G1 (as a negative particle) and G2590; barren (literally or figuratively):—without fruit, unfruitful.
The KJV translates Strong's G175 in the following manner: unfruitful (6x), without fruit (1x).

From Outline of Biblical Usage:

I. metaph. without fruit, barren, not yielding what it ought to yield

From Thayer’s Greek Lexicon:

metaphorically, not yielding what it ought to yield, [A. V. unfruitful]: Matthew 13:22; Mark 4:19; destitute of good deeds, Titus 3:14; 2 Peter 1:8; contributing nothing to the instruction, improvement, comfort, of others,

So the FIRST BENEFIT of Growing in these spiritual qualities is FRUITFULNESS ie you are bearing fruit, which is pleasing to God and Jesus Christ. Which means you are not letting God’s spirit be choked out by the cares of this world. (Mark 4:19)

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

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.

Expositors Bible Commentary : self blinded

Blind = G5185= τυφλός typhlós, toof-los'; from, G5187; opaque (as if smoky), i.e. (by analogy) blind (physically or mentally):—blind.

Cannot see afar off = G3467 = μυωπάζω myōpázō, moo-ope-ad'-zo; from a compound of the base of G3466 and ὤψ ōps (the face; from G3700); to shut the eyes, i.e. blink (see indistinctly):—cannot see far off
The KJV translates Strong's G3467 in the following manner: cannot see afar off (1x).
ONLY HERE

"short-sightedness," 1727, medical Latin, from Late Greek myōpia "near-sightedness," from myōps "near-sighted," literally "closing the eyes, blinking," on the notion of "squinting, contracting the eyes" (as near-sighted people do), from myein "to shut" (see mute (adj.)) + ōps (genitive ōpos) "eye" (from PIE root *okw- "to see"). By coincidence the name describes the problem: the parallel rays of light are brought to a focus before they reach the retina. From https://www.etymonline.com/word/myopic

We need God's holy spirit to see the Kingdom
John 3:3 KJV - Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot **see the kingdom of God**.

Warning:
Matthew 13:11 KJV - He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.
Matthew 13:12 KJV - For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.
Matthew 13:13 KJV - Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.
Matthew 13:14 KJV - And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and **seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive**:
Matthew 13:15 KJV - For this people's heart is waxed gross, and [their] ears are dull of hearing, and **their eyes they have closed**; lest at any time they should see with [their] eyes, and hear with [their] ears, and should understand with [their] heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.
Matthew 13:16 KJV - But blessed [are] your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.

Revelation 3:17 KJV - Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, **and blind**, and naked:

Revelation 3:18 KJV - I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and [that] the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and **anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.**
Revelation 3:19 KJV - As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

NOTE: this is a message given to a Church of God - not to the world.

Proverbs 29:18 KJV - Where [there is] no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy [is] he.

John 4:35 KJV - Say not ye, There are yet four months, and [then] cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, **Lift up your eyes**, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.

We need to have VISION and see what God has in store for us.. And be motivated to do whatever it takes to be there. Where? Verse 11 (below) **into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

So the SECOND BENEFIT of Growing in these spiritual qualities is VISION

NOTE: the second point of this verse is NOT forgetting what Jesus has done for us. Without the sacrifice of Jesus Christ it is not possible to enter into the Kingdom. His death and resurrection make it possible. So part of the "vision" is seeing the role Jesus played in making the bigger vision possible.

2 Peter 1:10 NKJV - Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;
2 Peter 1:11 NKJV - for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Diligent = G4704 = σπουδάζω spoudázō, spoo-dad'-zo; from G4710; to use speed, i.e. to make effort, be prompt or earnest:—do (give) diligence, be diligent (forward), endeavour, labour, study.

Call to be more diligent. Diligent is used in two other verses:

> 2 Peter 1:15 KJV - Moreover I will endeavour[G4704] that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance.
> 2 Peter 3:14 KJV - Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent[G4704] that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.
>
> Additionally:
> 2 Timothy 2:15 KJV - Study[G4704] to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
> Hebrews 4:11 KJV - Let us labour[G4704] therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

Stumble = G4417 = πταίω ptaíō, ptah'-yo; a form of G4098; to trip, i.e. (figuratively) to err, sin, fail (of salvation):—fall, offend, stumble.

The KJV translates Strong's G4417 in the following manner: offend (3x), stumble (1x), fall (1x).

From Outline of Biblical Usage:

I. to cause one to stumble or fall
II. to stumble
    A. to err, make a mistake, to sin
    B. to fall into misery, become wretched

So the THIRD BENEFIT of Growing in these spiritual qualities is SECURITY and CONFIDENCE. Ie being “sure footed” - not going to stumble

Ephesians 6:13 KJV - Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, **to stand**.

And the end result:

2 Peter 1:11 NKJV - for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

(And not having to worry about being deceived by false prophets that Peter gets into in Chapter 2)