

2 Peter 1:10-11

¹⁰Therefore, brothers, strive to make your calling and election sure.

For if you practice these things you will never stumble,

¹¹and you will receive a lavish reception

into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Berean Study Bible

¹⁰ Therefore, brothers and sisters, be diligent to make your calling and choosing sure.

Because, in practicing these things you will not; no never, stumble, at any time.

¹¹ In this way you will be granted lavish entrance

into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

My own translation – Preacher's Literal Translation

1

Yes, you can be sure! 2 Peter 1:10-11

Certainty. 1:10a

Called. 10a "make your calling... sure"

Chosen. 10a "make your... selection sure"

Confidence. 1:10b

Practical. 10b "practice these things"

Positive. 10b "will never stumble"

Celebration. 1:11

Quality. 11a "lavish reception"

Quantity. 11b "the Eternal Kingdom"

2

Live with assurance. 2 Peter 1:10-11

Live with certainty. 1:10a

Free from doubt. 10a "make your calling and selection **sure**"

Free to do. 10a "brothers, strive"

Live with clarity. 1:10b

There is a better way. 10b "if you practice"

There is a better walk. 10b “you will never stumble”

Live with confidence. 1:11

The way I will be received. 11 “lavish reception”

Where I will be received. 11 “the Eternal Kingdom”

3

Your one-way ticket is ready. 2 Peter 1:10-11

Travel, airline, ship, or vacation theme

Get your ticket. 1:10a

Your ticket has been paid for. 10a “make your calling... sure”

Your ticket needs to be picked up. 10a “make your... selection sure”

Do the journey. 1:10b

Get on board. 10b “practice these things”

Stay on board. 10b “will never stumble”

Reach your destination. 1:11

Your warm welcome. 11a “lavish reception”

You won’t want to leave. 11b “the Eternal Kingdom”

4

All aboard! 2 Peter 1:10-11

Railway, or train theme

Get on board. 1:10a

Your direction determines your destination. 10a “make your calling... sure”

Your track determines your speed. 10a “make... selection sure” (express / all stops)

Stay on track. 1:10b

Continue through the tunnels. 10b “practice these things”

Stay on the mainline. 10b “will never stumble” (never get side-tracked)

Reach the terminal. 1:11

The destination is better than the journey. 11a “lavish reception”

The destination is worth the journey. 11b “the Eternal Kingdom”

5

Run for the prize. 2 Peter 1:10-11

Athlete, runner theme

Burst from the blocks. 1:10a “strive”

I confirm I am called. 10a “make your calling... sure”

I confirm I am chosen. 10a “make... selection sure”

Maintain the momentum. 1:10b “practice”

Overcome distractions. 10b “practice these things”

Overcome uncertainty. 10b “will never stumble”

Finish as a winner. 1:11 “receive”

My award ceremony. 11a “lavish reception”

My eternal country. 11b “the Eternal Kingdom”

6

The path to the pearly gates. 2 Peter 1:10-11

Assurance of Heaven. 1:10a

Use your mind and hands. 10a “be diligent”

Use your mind and ears. 10a “make your call... sure”

Use your mind and heart. 10a “make your... choice sure”

Anticipation of Heaven. 1:10b

Grow in competence. 10b “in practicing these things”

Grow in confidence. 10b “you will not; no never, stumble, at any time”

Admittance into Heaven. 1:11

God’s goodness is extravagant. 11a “you will be granted lavish entrance”

God’s goodness is eternal. 11b “into the eternal Kingdom”

God’s goodness is expansive. 11b “our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ”

Other possible titles

How can I know if I am saved?

Be sure of your salvation.

No doubt.

RSVP (An abbreviation of the French term, *répondez s’il vous plait*, meaning please reply)

Fling wide those pearly gates!

Homecoming to Heaven

How do you know if you are going to Heaven?

Don’t walk. Dance your way through life.

Quotes and illustrations

Bible verses about assurance

Truly, truly, I tell you, he who believes has eternal life. John 6:47

²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹My Father who has given them to Me is greater than all. No one can snatch them out of My Father's hand. John 10:28-29

¹Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we stand. Romans 5:1-2

³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor principalities, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39

⁸For it is by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not from yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

In Him, and through faith in Him, we may enter God's presence with boldness and confidence. Ephesians 3:12

For this reason, even though I suffer as I do, I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him for that day. 2 Timothy 1:12

We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure. Hebrews 6:11

²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold resolutely to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. Hebrews 10:21-23

For we did not follow cleverly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 2 Peter 1:16

¹¹And this is that testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

¹²Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

¹³I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. 1 John 5:11-13

Assurance as being essential for maturity

To be assured of our salvation is no arrogant stoutness. It is faith. It is devotion. It is not presumption. It is God's promise. - Augustine

It is our privilege to know that we are saved. - Dwight L. Moody

If any man is not sure that he is in Christ, he ought not to be easy one moment until he is sure. Dear friend, without the fullest confidence as to your saved condition, you have no right to be at ease, and I pray you may never be so. This is a matter too important to be left undecided. - Charles Spurgeon

Assurance after all is no more than a full-grown faith; a masculine faith that grasps Christ's promise with both hands - a faith that argues like the good centurion, if the Lord "speak the word only," I am healed. Wherefore then should I doubt? (Matthew 8:8). - J. C. Ryle

In the darkest of nights cling to the assurance that God loves you, that He always has advice for you, a path that you can tread and a solution to your problem--and you will experience that which you believe. God never disappoints anyone who places his trust in Him. - Basilea Schlink

Prayer crowns God with the honour and glory due to His name, and God crowns prayer with assurance and comfort. The most praying souls are the most assured souls. - Thomas Brooks

Assurance by believing God's Word

I suppose many do not understand themselves, when they say they want assurance; for what better assurance would you have than the word of God? If you have his word, and take his word, you need no better assurance. - Ralph Erskine

Now, I find a great many people who want some evidence that they have accepted the Son of God. My friends, if you want any evidence, take God's word for it. You can't find better evidence than that. You know that when the Angel Gabriel came down and told Zachariah he should have a son he wanted a further token than the angel's word. He asked Gabriel for it and he answered, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of the Lord." He had never been doubted, and he thundered out this to Zachariah. But he wanted a further token, and Gabriel said, "You shall have a token: you shall be dumb till your son shall be given you." - Dwight L. Moody

I believe hundreds of Christian people are being deceived by Satan now on this point, that they have not got the assurance of salvation just because they are not willing to take God at His word. - Dwight L. Moody

Assurance in God's Person

If one dear saint of God had perished, so might all; if one of the covenant ones be lost, so may all be; and then there is no gospel promise true, but the Bible is a lie, and there is nothing in it worth my acceptance. I will be an infidel at once when I can believe that a saint of God can ever fall finally. If God hath loved me once, then He will love me forever. - Charles Spurgeon

Assurance overcoming doubt

When I cannot enjoy the faith of assurance, I live by the faith of adherence. - Matthew Henry

In these two things the greatness of man consists, to have God so dwelling in us as to impart his character to us, and to have him so dwelling in us that we recognize his presence, and know that we are his, and he is ours. The one is salvation: the other the assurance of it. - Frederick W. Robertson

If the faith whereby I have laid hold on Christ to be my Saviour be altogether wrought in me by the Holy Ghost through grace, then I defy the devil to take away that which he never gave me or to crush that which Jehovah Himself created in me. I defy my free will to fling what it never brought to me. What God has given, created, introduced, and established in the heart, He will maintain there. - Charles Spurgeon

Uncertainty as to our relationship with God is one of the most enfeebling and dispiriting of things. It makes a man heartless. It takes the pith out of him. He cannot fight; he cannot run. He is easily dismayed and gives way. He can do nothing for God. But when we know that we are of God, we are vigorous, brave, invincible. There is no more quickening truth than this of assurance. - Horatius Bonar

Quotes about Heaven

God never said that the journey would be easy, but He did say that the arrival would be worthwhile. - Max Lucado

My home is in Heaven. I'm just traveling through this world. - Billy Graham

Scripture repeatedly makes clear that heaven is a realm of unsurpassed joy, unfading glory, undiminished bliss, unlimited delights, and unending pleasures. Nothing about it can possibly be boring or humdrum. It will be a perfect existence. We will have unbroken

fellowship with all heaven's inhabitants. Life there will be devoid of any sorrows, cares, tear, fears, or pain. - John MacArthur

We don't seek to escape this life by dreaming of heaven. But we do find we can endure this life because of the certainty of heaven. Heaven is eternal. Earth is temporal. Those who fix all their affections of the fleeting things of this world are the real escapist, because they are vainly attempting to avoid facing eternity - by hiding in the fleeting shadows of things that are only transient. - John MacArthur

We'll say good night here and good morning up there. - John R. Rice

There are no crown-wearers in heaven who were not cross-bearers here below. - Charles Spurgeon

For the Christian, heaven is where Jesus is. We do not need to speculate on what heaven will be like. It is enough to know that we will be forever with Him. - William Barclay

Without holiness on earth we shall never be prepared to enjoy heaven. Heaven is a holy place. The Lord of heaven is a holy Being. The angels are holy creatures. Holiness is written on everything in heaven... How shall we ever be at home and happy in heaven if we die unholy? - J. C. Ryle

Some day you will read in the papers that D.L. Moody of East Northfield, is dead. Don't you believe a word of it! At that moment I shall be more alive than I am now; I shall have gone up higher, that is all, out of this old clay tenement into a house that is immortal- a body that death cannot touch, that sin cannot taint; a body fashioned like unto His glorious body. - Dwight L. Moody

The apostolic church thought more about the Second Coming of Jesus Christ than about death and heaven. The early Christians were looking, not for a cleft in the ground called a grave but for a cleavage in the sky called Glory. - Alexander MacLaren

It is not darkness you are going to, for God is Light. It is not lonely, for Christ is with you. It is not unknown country, for Christ is there. - Charles Kingsley

Everything science has taught me - and continues to teach me - strengthens my belief in the continuity of our spiritual existence after death. Nothing disappears without a trace. - Anon

Can you tell a plain man the road to heaven? Certainly, turn at once to the right, then go straight forward. - William Wilberforce

Greek commentary

¹⁰ Therefore, **brothers and sisters**, be diligent

ἀδελφοί is the vocative masculine plural noun of ἀδελφός [Strong's 80] a common noun with 343 occurrences in the Greek New Testament.

The word literally means ‘of the womb’. The ancient Greek word δελφύς means ‘womb’. However, the usual New Testament Greek word for womb is κοιλία [Strong's 2836] which is a more general and inclusive term meaning ‘abdomen’.

ἀδελφοί is frequently translated as ‘brothers’ because it is a masculine word, and is distinguished from its own feminine cognate form, ἀδελφή [Strong's 79]. The similarity between the masculine and feminine forms is seen in ἀδελφούς ἢ ἀδελφὰς ‘brothers or sisters’ (Matthew 19:29) where the genders are differentiated.

In the Greek New Testament, this word is not necessarily specifically masculine, but is often used as an inclusive term best translated by the archaic term ‘brethren’ which includes both male and female. For example, Matthew 5:47, 23:8, 25:40, John 21:23, Acts 7:23, 11:29, and many others.

In modern English common usage ἀδελφοί would normally be translated as ‘brothers and sisters’.

¹⁰ Therefore, brothers and sisters, **be diligent**

The verb σπουδάσατε is the Aorist Imperative Active Second person Plural of σπουδάζω [Strong's 4704], literally, ‘be swift, go fast, be speedy’; meaning, ‘be diligent, act fervently, fully apply oneself, be zealous, be eager, hasten’.

This verb appears 11 times in the Greek New Testament, including 3 times (27% of all occurrences) in 2 Peter. The full list of references for σπουδάζω and its verbal cognates is: Galatians 2:10, Ephesians 4:3, 1 Thessalonians 2:17, 2 Timothy 2:15, 4:9, 4:21, Titus 3:12, Hebrews 4:11, 2 Peter 1:10, 1:15, 3:14.

make your **calling** and selection sure

κλησιν is an Accusive Feminine Singular Noun. Its root word is κλησις [Strong's 2821] meaning, ‘a call, a calling, an invitation, a summons, a vocation’.

This noun appears 11 times in the Greek New Testament, including only once (9% of all occurrences) in 2 Peter. The full list of references for κλησις and its noun cognates is: Romans 11:29, 1 Corinthians 1:26, 7:20, Ephesians 1:18, 4:1, 4:4, Philippians 3:14, 2 Thessalonians 1:11, 2 Timothy 1:9, Hebrews 3:1, and 2 Peter 1:10.

The verb form of this word, καλέω [Strong's 2564] meaning, ‘I call, invite, summon, name’. This verb, along with its verbal cognate forms, is found with 148 occurrences in the Greek New Testament.

The adjective, κλητός [Strong's 2822] meaning, ‘a called person’ occurs 11 times in the Greek New Testament.

If you stand on a busy street corner, and call out to someone across the street, everyone in the vicinity receives the sound of your call. Theologically, God's call is also a broad cry. It is issued broadly and everyone is welcome to hear His call. "Many are called, but few are chosen" (Matthew 20:16, 22:14).

This call / invitation / summons that goes out to everyone includes implications of its purpose and destination. It is "according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28), "to be saints" (1 Corinthians 1:2), "an upward call" (Philippians 3:14), "a holy calling" (2 Timothy 1:9), "a heavenly calling" (Hebrews 3:1). The question remains, how will we respond to His call?

make your calling and **selection** sure

ἐκλογὴν is an Accusative Feminine Singular Noun whose root is ἐκλογή [Strong's 1589]. This is a compound word composed of the prefix ἐκ [Strong's 1537] meaning, 'out of, out from among, out from within, from the interior outwards'; plus the verb λέγω [Strong's 3004] which, in its origin meaning was, 'lay down to sleep,' and later 'laying an argument to rest, bringing a message to closure', and eventually, simply meant 'say, call, mention'. Therefore, ἐκλογή means, 'choosing out from, selecting from among, making a deliberate choice

ἐκλογή [Strong's 1589] is a noun which occurs 7 times. Acts 9:15, Romans 9:11, 11:5, 11:7, 11:28, 1 Thessalonians 1:4, 2 Peter 1:10.

ἐκλεκτός [Strong's 1588] is an adjective which occurs 23 times in the New Testament. Matthew 20:16, 22:14, 24:22, 24:31, Mark 13:20, 13:27, Luke 18:7, 23:35, Romans 8:33, 16:13, Colossians 3:12, 1 Timothy 5:21, 2 Timothy 2:10, Titus 1:1, 1 Peter 1:1, 2:4, 2:6, 2:9, 2 John 1:1, 1:13, Revelation 17:14.

ἐκλέγομαι [Strong's 1586] is a verb occurring 22 times in the Greek New Testament: Mark 13:20, Luke 6:13, 9:35, 10:42, 14:7, John 6:70, 13:18, 15:16, 15:16, 15:19, Acts 1:2, 1:24, 6:5, 13:17, 15:7, 15:22, 15:25, 1 Corinthians 1:27, 1:27, 1:28, Ephesians 1:4, James 2:5.

συνεκλεκτός [Strong's 4899] a adjective found only in 1 Peter 5:13. A compound word consisting of the preposition σύν [Strong's 4862] meaning, 'together with, identified with'; plus the verb, ἐκλεκτός [Strong's 1588]. Therefore, meaning, 'chosen together with, selected in tandem with'.

make your calling and selection **sure**

βεβαίαν [Strong's 949] is an Accusative Feminine Singular Adjective. Its meaning is literally, 'what can be trodden upon', therefore, 'a solid footing, firm, unshakable, dependable, a guaranteed support'.

This word has 9 occurrences in the Greek New Testament, including two occurrences (22% of all references) in 2 Peter, being 2 Peter 1:10, 1:19.

you will not; no never, **stumble**, at any time.

πταίσῃτέ is an Aorist Subjunctive Active Second person Plural Verb. Its root is the verb, πταίω [Strong's 4417] meaning, 'stumble, falter'. This word occurs 5 times in the Greek New Testament, Romans 11:11, James 2:10, 3:2, 3:2, and 2 Peter 1:10.

I ask then, did they **stumble** so as to fall beyond recovery? Certainly not! However, because of their trespass, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel jealous. Romans 11:11

Whoever keeps the whole law but **stumbles** at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. James 2:10

For we all **stumble** in many ways. And if anyone does not **stumble** in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. James 3:2

Therefore, brothers and sisters, be diligent to make your calling and choosing sure. Because, in practicing these things you will not; no never, **stumble**, at any time. 2 Peter 1:10

When Jesus warned of 'stumbling blocks' in Luke 17:1, the word He used was σκάνδαλον [Strong's 4625]. A skandalon was, 'the trigger of a trap, method of entrapment, the mechanism closing a trap down on the unsuspecting victim, a snare, bait'. It is a noun which occurs 15 times in the Greek New Testament, including once by Peter, in 1 Peter 2:8, "7To you who believe, then, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," 8and, "A stone of stumbling (πρόσκομμα) and a rock of **offense** (σκάνδαλον)." They stumble (προσκόπτω) because they disobey the word— and to this they were appointed."

you will **not**; **no never**, stumble, **at any time**.

οὐ μὴ [stumble] ποτε. The first two Greek words are adverbs, and the final word is a particle, all relating to the verb 'stumble'.

οὐ [Strong's 3756] is the negative particle, meaning, 'no, not', objectively negating a statement or action, ruling it out as fact.

μὴ [Strong's 3361] is also a negative particle, often used for qualified negation. It negates the underlying concept of a statement. It rules out the possibility of something occurring.

ποτέ [Strong's 4218] is a disjunctive particle, principally meaning 'ever', but able to be used as 'formerly, at some time, once'.

Taken together, these words mean, 'this could never, ever, occur', or 'this is not even theoretically possible'.

We are to give evidence of our election

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Colossians 3:12

On the Divine side, 'calling' is His invitation to sinners to be saved; and 'election' is His commitment to keep saved all those to come to Him in repentance and faith.

On the human side, 'calling' is our call of agreement and acceptance, echoed back to God; and 'election' is our commitment to humility and obedience to live in Christ.

Music and songs

Songs about certainty "make... sure", v10a

A pilgrim was I... surely goodness and mercy. CWH 10

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine. H 687

I am not skilled to understand... I only know at His right hand. H 643

I cannot tell why He whom angels worship.. But this I know. H 185

I know not why... But I know whom I have believed. H 651

My Lighthouse. Ot 35

Potter's hand... I know for sure, all of my days... 857

Thanksgiving. Your promises are sure. Ot 28

Who is on the Lord's side. H

Songs about practical virtue "practice these things", 10b

I am resolved no longer to linger. H 645

I am Thine o Lord... Draw me nearer. H 646

I'm gonna follow you. Ot 107

I walk by faith. Ot 32

My heart is filled with thankfulness... every step I take. Ot 97

Salt and light. Ot 113

Sometimes by step. Ot 30

To the overcomers (Michael Card). Item

Songs about stability "will never stumble", 10b

Teach me to dance. 728
The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord.
When I lift up my head. Ot 111

Songs about entering Heaven “lavish reception”, v11a

See Him coming. Ot 5
The feast is ready. 68
When the saints go marching in.
When the trumpet of the Lord... when the roll is called up yonder. H

Songs about eternity “the eternal kingdom”, v11b

Ancient of days... Your Kingdom will not pass away. 711
Forever
O what a wonderful... I have a future in Heaven for sure... CWH 46
This Kingdom. Ot 47

Thought starters for personal reflection or group discussion

1. When you get to Heaven, what is one thing you are really looking forward to enjoying?
 2. Why is assurance or confidence essential for a healthy relationship?
 3. What are some things that a) build; and b) weaken; a confident relationship?
 4. List some things that God has done to enable us to have a confident relationship with Him.
 5. Suggest some reasons why Christians might lack confidence in God.
 6. What advice would you give to a weak believer that would help to build their confidence in God?
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