

## Agency in Progression

### PART IV: Calling and Election Made Sure vs The Point of No Return

Peter teaches in the second epistle of Peter chapter one,

1. “Jesus our Lord... hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness...hath called us to glory and virtue”
  - \*Jesus has given us this life and all things in it and has shown us the way to life and godliness, and called us to glory and virtue. This simply means that the Lord has asked us to do and become as he is (ie. “many are called”)
2. “Whereby are given unto us exceedingly great and precious promises”
  - \*The Lord has called us to action and given us “promises”, but what are promises? Promises are commandments (ie. When you keep this specific commandment, you will receive these specific blessings- “a covenant with a promise”)
3. “That by these [commandments] ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust”
  - \*Another word for lust is temptation. So Peter here is saying that the way we overcome the temptations of the world is by keeping the commandments and in the process we become partakers of the divine nature ie. We are no longer called, we are chosen.

In conclusion, we are brought into life and Christ has given us all things we need unto life and godliness and called us to glory and virtue. The way we obtain this glory and virtue and escape the temptations of the world is through precious promises (ie. Hinge points) in our lives.

Now at this point in time Peter could have chosen to talk about the point of no return ie. The point in which you have chosen the wrong “precious promises” (hinge point) so many times in your life that you have lost the spirit of the Lord and the will to change. However, Peter did not talk about this- Peter segued into making your calling and election sure. What is that? If there is a point in time where you have made the wrong choices so often that Satan seals you unto his own and you have lost the will to change, and we know that “opposition in all things must exist”, then we know there is a point in time where you have made the right choices so often that Christ seals you unto his own and your will is completely aligned to his. Simply put, to have one’s calling and election made sure is to have Jesus Christ himself seal you unto himself, not because you are perfect but because he knows the hinge points you have chosen and even though you might make some mistakes from point A to point B, your will is so tied to his own He knows that you won’t stop until you are perfected in Him.

The Second Comforter, the Church of the Firstborn, election of grace, sealed in their foreheads, becoming sons of God, the more sure word of prophecy, etc are synonymous with having your calling and election made sure.

So if you were to teach somebody the hinge points of life and the way to overcome those things, that would be synonymous with teaching how to make your calling and election sure. Thus we should see parallels in Peter’s teachings of how to make your calling and election sure, and the hinge points of life that we have previously discussed- they should be synonymous.

How does Peter teach to have one’s calling and election made sure? He teaches it as a series of ladder attributes.

1. Faith in Jesus Christ
2. Add to your faith, virtue
3. Add to your virtue, knowledge
4. Add to your knowledge, temperance
5. Add to your temperance, patience
6. Add to your patience, godliness
7. Add to your godliness, brotherly kindness

At this point “wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.” (2 Peter 1:10)

“Charity never faileth” (1 Cor. 13:8)

“Until we have perfect love we are liable to fall and when we have a testimony that our names are sealed in the Lamb’s book of life we have perfect love” (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p.9)

**Moroni:7:44-48**

44 If so, his faith and hope is vain, for none is acceptable before God, save the meek and lowly in heart; and if a man be meek and lowly in heart, and confesses by the power of the Holy Ghost that Jesus is the Christ, he must needs have charity; for if he have not charity he is nothing; wherefore he must needs have charity.

45 And charity suffereth long, and is kind, and envieth not, and is not puffed up, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil, and rejoiceth not in iniquity but rejoiceth in the truth, beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

46 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, if ye have not charity, ye are nothing, for charity never faileth. Wherefore, cleave unto charity, which is the greatest of all, for all things must fail—

47 But charity is the pure love of Christ, and it endureth forever; and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with him.

48 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love, which he hath bestowed upon all who are true followers of his Son, Jesus Christ; that ye may become the sons of God; that when he shall appear we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is; that we may have this hope; that we may be purified even as he is pure. Amen.

8. Add to your brotherly kindness, charity

The first steps in the ladder, faith in Jesus Christ, virtue (synonymous with repentance) and knowledge, are antithetical to the temptation of pride. Pride is to have faith in the arm of flesh, pride is to be rebellious and unrepentant, pride is pitting your knowledge against God’s knowledge. To overcome the temptation of pride, by gaining a testimony in personal revelation and the keys of God, one obtains faith in Jesus, virtue and knowledge.

Temperance and patience are antithetical to the temptation of unfettered appetite. To have an unfettered appetite is to be gluttonous and sexually boundless, and to take what you want when you

want it. To overcome the temptation of appetite, by living the Law of Chastity and Word of Wisdom, one obtains temperance and patience.

Godliness is antithetical to the world. You cannot serve God and mammon. What is mammon? Mammon is glory, power, materialism etc. To overcome the temptation of the world, by magnifying fatherhood and motherhood, one obtains godliness.

Brotherly kindness is antithetical to being a respecter of persons. Being a respecter of persons is to not love your neighbor as yourself. To overcome the temptation of being a respecter of persons, by loving your neighbor as yourself, one obtains brotherly kindness.

A “fulness of charity” cannot be obtained until one obtains their calling and election. Meaning, charity is synonymous with Christ himself and having your calling and election made sure; it is a gift from God. When one describes the attributes of “charity”, one describes a fullness of all the attributes up to this point in time, they are describing Jesus Christ himself.

So did Peter’s teaching of how to have your calling and election made sure line up with the important hinge points in life? Perfectly.