

The background of the slide is a light gray gradient. It is decorated with numerous realistic water droplets of various sizes. Some droplets are large and prominent, while others are small and subtle. They are scattered across the slide, with a higher concentration in the top-left and bottom-right corners. Each droplet has a soft shadow and a highlight, giving it a three-dimensional appearance.

CONFIDENTLY EATING THE FRUIT OF YOUR HANDS (AND LIFE)

AUGUST 22, 2021



A STORY FROM 1933

NOT ONLY EATING BUT PRESSING FORWARD – CONFIDENT AND CONTENT, BUT UNSATISFIED

- 2 PETER 1: 2-11
 - NOT PARALYZING SELF-CONDEMNATION -- TWO “THIEVES”
 - NOT SELF-LOATHING -- WILLING EXAMINATION AND SUBMISSION
 - NOT OUR PROMISES AND POWER -- HIS PROMISES AND POWER

- 2 GRACE AND PEACE BE MULTIPLIED TO YOU IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD AND OF JESUS OUR LORD; 3 SEEING THAT **HIS DIVINE POWER HAS GRANTED TO US EVERYTHING PERTAINING TO LIFE AND GODLINESS**, THROUGH THE TRUE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM WHO CALLED US BY HIS OWN GLORY AND EXCELLENCE. 4 FOR BY THESE HE HAS GRANTED TO US ***HIS PRECIOUS AND MAGNIFICENT PROMISES***, SO THAT BY THEM **YOU MAY BECOME PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE**, HAVING ESCAPED THE CORRUPTION THAT IS IN THE WORLD BY LUST. 5 NOW FOR THIS VERY REASON ALSO, **APPLYING ALL DILIGENCE**, IN YOUR FAITH SUPPLY MORAL EXCELLENCE, AND IN YOUR MORAL EXCELLENCE, KNOWLEDGE, 6 AND IN YOUR KNOWLEDGE, SELF-CONTROL, AND IN YOUR SELF-CONTROL, PERSEVERANCE, AND IN YOUR PERSEVERANCE, GODLINESS,

- 7 AND IN YOUR GODLINESS, BROTHERLY KINDNESS, AND IN YOUR BROTHERLY KINDNESS, LOVE. 8 FOR IF THESE QUALITIES ARE YOURS **AND ARE INCREASING,** THEY RENDER YOU **NEITHER USELESS NOR UNFRUITFUL** IN THE TRUE KNOWLEDGE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. 9 FOR HE WHO LACKS THESE QUALITIES IS BLIND OR SHORT-SIGHTED, HAVING FORGOTTEN HIS PURIFICATION FROM HIS FORMER SINS. 10 THEREFORE, **BRETHREN, BE ALL THE MORE DILIGENT** TO MAKE CERTAIN ABOUT HIS CALLING AND CHOOSING YOU; FOR AS LONG AS YOU PRACTICE THESE THINGS, YOU WILL NEVER STUMBLE; 11 FOR IN THIS WAY THE ENTRANCE INTO THE ETERNAL KINGDOM OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST WILL BE ABUNDANTLY SUPPLIED TO YOU.

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 - ARE WE COASTING?
 - RE-CONFESSING PAST SINS IS NOT HUMILITY -- IT IS DOUBT
 - THE GREATEST FRUIT WE CAN ENJOY IS TRANSFORMATION

- 12 NOT THAT I HAVE ALREADY OBTAINED IT OR HAVE ALREADY BECOME PERFECT, **BUT I PRESS ON** SO THAT I MAY LAY HOLD OF THAT FOR WHICH ALSO I WAS LAID HOLD OF BY CHRIST JESUS. 13 BRETHREN, I **DO NOT REGARD MYSELF AS HAVING LAID HOLD OF IT YET;** BUT ONE THING I DO: **FORGETTING WHAT LIES BEHIND AND REACHING FORWARD TO WHAT LIES AHEAD,** 14 **I PRESS ON** TOWARD THE GOAL FOR THE PRIZE OF THE UPWARD CALL OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS.

HOW DO I RECEIVE AND SHARE THE BLESSING OF MY LIFE'S LABOR AND EXPERIENCES?

- THE CURSE BECOMES A BLESSING
- THE FEAR AND MISERY OF USELESSNESS
- GOOD PILOTS
- TOMATOES ARE FRUITS, RIGHT?
- LEARNING TO RIDE A BICYCLE
- UGLY ORANGES MAKE SWEET JUICE
- WHAT YOU KNOW IS TRULY RARE AND PRICELESS
- LISTENING WITH EMPATHY AND VULNERABILITY
- RESPECT: WHAT ALL MEN CRAVE

TWELVE QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

- HAVE YOU BECOME EFFECTIVE AT QUESTION ASKING? (IN RELATIONSHIPS, IN WITNESSING, IN LEARNING, IN PROBLEM SOLVING) **PROVERBS 20:5**
- ARE YOU MORE AND MORE USING YOUR TONGUE FOR ENCOURAGEMENT, HEALING, AND COACHING? **PROVERBS 15:4, PROVERBS 25:11**
- HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE YOU TOLD SOMEONE HOW IMPORTANT THEY ARE TO YOU?
- IS THERE ANYONE YOU HAVEN'T FORGIVEN? **MATT 6:15**
- ARE YOU LESS REACTIONARY AND MORE MEASURED IN YOUR RESPONSES? **PROVERBS 26:20**
- HAVE YOU LEARNED THE AWFUL LESSON THAT GOSSIP IS CANCEROUS? **PROVERBS 21:23**

QUESTIONS (CONTINUED):

- HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE YOU ASKED SOMEONE ELSE FOR ADVICE OR FORGIVENESS? **PROVERBS 19:20**
- IS THERE SOMEONE IN THIS CHURCH WHO HAS SOUGHT YOU OUT TO GET YOUR ADVICE? **PROVERBS 11:13**
- HOW TENDER ARE YOU WITH YOUR WIFE AND FAMILY? **PSALM 18:35**
- DO YOU HAVE ANY FRIENDS THAT KNOW YOU AND YOUR REAL STRUGGLES? **JAMES 5:16**
- IF I ASKED YOUR CHILDREN HOW DIFFERENT YOU ARE AT HOME FROM CHURCH, WHAT WOULD THEY HONESTLY TESTIFY? WHY DON'T YOU ASK THEM?
- HAVE YOU STOPPED FIGHTING, GROWING, PRESSING FORWARD SPIRITUALLY? **PROVERBS 24:16**



ONE FINAL STORY

