

The background of the slide is a light gray gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered across it. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. The main text is centered in the middle of the slide.

# **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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- PHIL 3: 12-14
  - 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**

