

For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins. 2 Peter 1:8-9 (NIV)

An Instrument

Do you want to bear fruit for me? Do you want to bear an abundance of fruit for my kingdom? Do you want to bring glory to my name? Do you want me to be able to use you as my instrument in this world? Do you want to be able to go and do the good works that I have planned for you to do for me? Do you want to be found faithful in my sight? Do you want to one day hear me say, “Well done, good and faithful servant?” Lord, you know my answers to your questions. **Yes, I do. I want you to hear your answers to my questions. I want them to be front and center in your heart and mind and life.** I passionately want to say an emphatic yes to all that you are asking of me. I don't want anything to hinder me from being fruitful for your kingdom and bringing glory to your name. I don't want to fail to do anything that you have planned and prepared for me to do for you. I don't want to look back from heaven to this life and see what I could have done or could have been for you. I want you to be able to accomplish all your purposes and plans in and through my life. I want to fully do all that you have made and designed me to do for you. I want to be your instrument in this world. I want to be completely in tune with you. **That is very good.**

Is there more that you want to say? Yes, I have more to say. Only you can make me faithful. Only you can bear fruit through my life. Only you can make me able to accomplish your purpose and plans. Only you can help me to bring glory to your name. On my own I can do none of these things. **That's right.** I desperately need your help. **You do need my help. You do need to rely on me. I will make you faithful. I will make you fruitful. I will make you able to accomplish my purposes and plans. You will bring glory to my name. Will you allow me to develop my character in you?** Yes, Lord, I will. **Then one day you will hear me say, “Well done, good and faithful servant because you will have been my instrument in the world.” You will have remained in tune with me.**

Lord, my character needs work. I don't want anything in my character to hinder my fruitfulness in serving you. Use your word to speak into my life. Mold and shape my life by your word. Develop Godly character in me so that I will be abundantly fruitful for you. Amen

Character *Ineffective And Unproductive*

For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.

NIV 2 Peter 1:8-9

Character *More productive And Useful*

The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But those who fail to develop in this way are shortsighted or blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins.

NLT 2 Peter 1:8-9

Character *Ineffective And Unfruitful*

For if these things are yours and are increasing among you, they keep you from being ineffective and unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For anyone who lacks these things is nearsighted and blind, and is forgetful of the cleansing of past sins.

NRSV 2 Peter 1:8-9

Character *Idle Or Unfruitful*

For as these qualities are yours and increasingly abound in you, they will keep [you] from being idle or unfruitful unto the [full personal] knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One). For whoever lacks these qualities is blind, [spiritually] shortsighted, seeing only what is near to him, and has become oblivious [to the fact] that he was cleansed from his old sins.

AMP 2 Peter 1:8-9

Character *Useless Nor Unfruitful*

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. For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins.

NASB 2 Peter 1:8-9

Character *Ineffective And Unfruitful*

For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.

ESV 2 Peter 1:8-9

Character *Barren Nor Unfruitful*

For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

NKJV 2 Peter 1:8-9

Character *No Grass Will Grow Under Your Feet*

With these qualities active and growing in your lives, no grass will grow under your feet, no day will pass without its reward as you mature in your experience of our Master Jesus. Without these qualities you can't see what's right before you, oblivious that your old sinful life has been wiped off the books.

MSG 2 Peter 1:8-9

Character *Fruitful And Useful*

The more you go on in this way, the more you will grow strong spiritually and become fruitful and useful to our Lord Jesus Christ. But anyone who fails to go after these additions to faith is blind indeed, or at least very shortsighted and has forgotten that God delivered him from the old life of sin so that now he can live a strong, good life for the Lord.

TLB 2 Peter 1:8-9

Character *Useful And Productive*

If all these things are in you and are growing, they will help you to be useful and productive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But anyone who does not have these things cannot see clearly. He is blind and has forgotten that he was made clean from his past sins.

NCV 2 Peter 1:8-9

Character – 2 Peter 1:8-9

In Context: *Read 2 Peter 1*

Begin With Prayer: *Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.*

Meditating On God's Word: *(What is God speaking to your heart?)*

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Considering The Words: *(What words speak to your heart?)*

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Praying The Scripture: *(What prayer from your heart will you write?)*

Lord, my character needs work. I don't want anything in my character to hinder my fruitfulness in serving you. Use your word to speak into my life. Mold and shape my life by your word. Develop Godly character in me so that I will be abundantly fruitful for you. Amen

What It Means: *(What questions speak to your heart?)* (Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)

How is the Lord developing Godly character qualities in you?

How has God used His word to develop His character in you?

Where would you say that you are weakest in terms of your character development?

When has some lack of Godly character made you unproductive in serving the Lord?

What from God's word speaks clearly to where you most need to be developing Godly character?

How are you taking a firm hold of God's word so that His character will develop in you?

How has Godly character made you productive and fruitful in serving the Lord?

Living It Out: *(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)*

Allow God's divine power to develop Godly character qualities in you so you will be productive in His service.

Seeing It Happen: *(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)*

Have faith that the Lord will help you to develop qualities that make you productive for Him.

Get Ready To Share: *(What can you share with others from your heart?)*

Share with another person or your small group how Godly character qualities are making you productive for Christ.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you allow the Lord to develop Godly character in you so you will be productive and fruitful for Him.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, develop Godly character in me so I will be productive and fruitful for you.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how do you want to develop Godly character in me so I will productive and fruitful for you?
