



January 25, 2026 | Matt Magee

Series: Fully Equipped: Pursuing Christian Maturity (2 Peter)

Sermon Title: The Anchor of Assurance

Main Scripture: 2 Peter 1:8-11

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CHURCH BODY HIGHLIGHTS

1. [Past Newsletters](#)

Warm-Up: The Nagging Question

- **The Icebreaker:** Pastor Matt began the message by identifying the "nagging question" that haunts many believers at 2:00 AM: *"Am I really a Christian?"* Why do you think this question is so common, even for people who have been in church for decades?
- **The False Tests:** The sermon identified two "wrong places" we often look for assurance:
 1. **The Emotional Test:** *"Do I feel close to God right now?"*
 2. **The Perfection Test:** *"Did I sin today?"*
- **Discuss:** Why are these two tests unreliable foundations for peace? How does depending on them make your faith unstable (like the weather)?

I. God's Promise: Fruit is Inevitable (Verse 8)

- **Read:** 2 Peter 1:8.
- **The Distinction:** Peter says that if these virtues are increasing, they keep us from being "ineffective" (useless) or "unfruitful."
 - **The Garden Metaphor:** Pastor Matt noted that God didn't just save you to be a statue in a museum; He saved you to be a fruit tree in a garden.
 - **Discussion:** Most of us view salvation simply as "staying out of the fire." How does your perspective change if you view the goal of salvation as "being useful" to the Master?
- **Deeper Dive (Cross-References):**
 - **Read John 15:8 & Titus 3:14.**
 - In John 15, Jesus says the Father is *glorified* when we bear much fruit. In Titus, Paul connects learning "good works" specifically so that believers "will not be unfruitful."
 - **Question:** According to these verses, is fruitfulness optional for the believer? How does "bearing fruit" actually prove we are attached to the Vine?

II. The Diagnosis: The Danger of Spiritual Amnesia (Verse 9)

- **The Metaphor:** For the person who isn't growing, Peter describes a condition of "nearsightedness" or "amnesia." Pastor Matt illustrated this using **Jason Bourne**—a character with elite skills and resources who lives in fear because he has lost his memory of who he is.
- **The Connection:**
 - Bourne acts confused because he forgot his identity.
 - Christians act like "Condemned Sinners" because they forget their "Status" as cleansed sons/daughters.
- **Application:** How does "remembering you are cleansed" (v. 9) actually give you the power to fight sin today? Why is memory more powerful than willpower?
- **Deeper Dive (Cross-References):**
 - **Read Romans 6:11 & Hebrews 10:14.**
 - Romans calls us to "consider" (reckon/count) ourselves dead to sin. This is a mental exercise of remembering facts.
 - Hebrews says by one offering He has "perfected forever" those who are being sanctified.
 - *Question:* How do we balance the "Perfected Forever" (Status) with the "Being Sanctified" (Process)? How does forgetting the first one ruin the second one?

III. The Command: The Pulse Check | The Anchor of Assurance is Diligent Effort to “Confirm Your Calling and Election” (Verse 10)

- **Read:** 2 Peter 1:10.
- **Theological Distinction:** Pastor Matt clarified that we do not make our election sure to *God* (He is not confused), but to *ourselves* (ratifying the contract in our own conscience).
- **Check the Pulse:** Just as we check for a physical pulse to confirm physical life, we check for the "Pulse of the Spirit" (virtue, love, self-control) to confirm spiritual life.
- **Discussion:** What is one specific "pulse" (change in character/desire) you have seen in your life recently that encourages you that the Spirit is at work?
- **Deeper Dive (Cross-References):**
 - **Read 1 John 2:3-6.**
 - John says, "And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments."
 - *Question:* Many people think assurance comes from a past date on a calendar (the day I prayed a prayer). Why does the Bible seem to point assurance toward present-tense obedience instead?

IV. The Reward: Gracious Entrance into Christ's Kingdom is Richly Provided (The Two Ships) (Verse 11)

- **Key word:** We learned that the word for "Richly Supplied" in verse 11 is the same word used for "Supplement" in verse 5 (*epichorēgeō*). If we fund the choir (our character), God funds the entrance.
- **The Visual:** Pastor Matt closed with the image of two ships entering a harbor:

- **Ship A:** Shipwrecked, masts broken, the sailor gasping for air on driftwood. Saved, but "only as through fire."
- **Ship B:** Full sails, flags flying, cargo full, receiving a hero's welcome.
- **The "Get To":** Peter calls us to aim for the "Abundant Entrance." How does the hope of that future welcome change how you view your struggle for holiness right now?
- **Deeper Dive (Cross-References):**
 - **Read 1 Corinthians 3:10-15.**
 - Paul speaks of building on the foundation with "gold, silver, precious stones" vs. "wood, hay, straw." The person who builds with straw is saved, but "as through fire."
 - *Question:* How does this passage support Peter's idea of an "Abundant Entrance"? Does the idea of "losing rewards" (while keeping salvation) motivate you or scare you?

Prayer Focus

- **Confess:** The times we have relied on the "Emotional Test" or "Perfection Test" for our peace.
- **Thank:** Jesus for purchasing our "Status" so we don't have to earn it.
- **Ask:** For the Spirit to help us "supplement" our faith this week, so we can enjoy the assurance of a "ship with full sails."