

## “The Addition of Knowledge”



### 2 Peter 1:5-11

Sunday, January 23, 2022

“But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, **to virtue knowledge**, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 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. Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

\*\*We have a little growth chart on a wall in my where we can measure the height of our grandchildren. And you know, every child loves to be measured to see how tall they have grown. You can see how happy a child is when you measure him and tell him!

As we grow we are always learning new things.

Cell phone  
Computer  
Mechanics  
Cooking  
Sewing  
Sports  
Instruments  
School

To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins,-  
Luke 1:77

And now here we have the admonition to add to our faith virtue and now to virtue knowledge.

I look at this list as progressive yet a continual work in our lives of diligently adding these things as we grow mature in the spiritual life.

➤ **3 Key Understandings about knowledge**

**1. We must understand what knowledge is.**

First off: What is the knowledge mentioned here by Peter?

**γνῶσις gnōsis**, gno'-sis; from **G1097**; knowing (the act), i.e. (by implication) knowledge:—knowledge, science.

**Knowledge** (**gnosis**) refers to experiential knowledge and not merely to a passing acquaintance. **Gnosis** is understanding, correct insight, truth properly comprehended and applied. Gnosis is functional ("working") knowledge gleaned from first hand (personal) experience, thus connecting "theory" with "application." Gnosis is "application knowledge" and thus it is not surprising that it grows best in the "field" of obedience as shown in [John 7:17](#) Jesus declaring that "If any man is willing to **do** His will, he shall **know** (**ginosko**) of the teaching, whether it is of God, or whether I speak from Myself." Jesus clearly associates the obtaining of **gnosis** or experiential knowledge with a willingness to obey God's will. This virtue involves a diligent study and pursuit of truth in the Word of God. This kind of knowledge does not come automatically but calls for obedience.

**Bible Knowledge Commentary** adds that this **knowledge** "comes **not** from intellectual pursuits, but is spiritual knowledge which comes through the Holy Spirit and is focused on the person and Word of God."

**Wiersbe** adds that this **gnosis** "suggests practical knowledge or discernment. It refers to the ability to handle life successfully."

Jeremiah 9:23-24- Thus says the LORD:

"Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom,  
Let not the mighty *man* glory in his might,  
Nor let the rich *man* glory in his riches;

<sup>24</sup> But let him who glories glory in this,

That he understands and knows Me,

That I *am* the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth.

For in these I delight," says the LORD.

If we were to trace the source of moral excellence all the way back to its origin, we would find that it originates in God's character. Thus, it is God's own character that sets the standards of moral excellence for us.

In the time that the apostle Peter wrote this epistle, there was a group of false teachers who claimed to have a special knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ. They were called the Gnostics. According to them, God could not possibly have created the world, because God is spirit and cannot have any dealings with the world of matter which is inherently evil. The world was created by an emanation that came out of God. Some Gnostics believe that Jesus could not possibly have been God, because God can never take on a material body.

Others said that Jesus was God or one of the emanations of God, but He did not really take on a real physical body. He just appeared to have a body. But it was just an illusion. Then according to church history, there was one false teacher named Cerinthus who taught that God came and took over the body of a man named Jesus at his baptism and then left his body just before he was crucified.

It is impossible to get a comprehensive Biblical knowledge by depending only on the messages that are delivered in church worship services, or at Bible camps or at Christian schools alone. You will get bits and pieces. But I believe that the only efficient way to get your doctrines right is through your own sustained habit of personal Bible study

Rudyard Kipling once wrote: 'I have six faithful men who taught me all I know, Their names are What and Where and When and How and Why and Who.'

Ill.- family devotions

☐ **Romans 11:33** O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

**Rom 15:14** And I myself also am persuaded of you my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.

**Col 2:3** In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. ¶

## **2. We must understand how to add it to our faith**

One night, a mother fixed a special meal for her family: turkey with mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, green beans, cranberry sauce, and apple pie for dessert.

It was everyone's favorite meal, especially when it came at a time other than Thanksgiving. The aroma filled the house, and as the children came in from playing they could hardly wait for dinner to begin. The last child appeared only a few minutes before dinner time and sat through the meal without eating, even though he especially loved those foods. Why? Because he had filled up on junk food at a friend's house. In settling for something good, he had lost his appetite for the best. The same applies to our spiritual appetites. Some people don't have much of an appetite for spiritual truth because they have satisfied themselves with lesser things."

☐ **1 Corinthians 1:5** That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge;|  
☐ **2 Corinthians 6:6** By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned,  
☐ **2 Corinthians 8:7** Therefore, as ye abound in every thing,|  
*in* faith, and utterance, and knowledge,| and in all diligence, and *in* your love to us, *see* that ye abound in this grace also.

Ill.- getting dressed each morning

### **3. We must realize the dangers associated with knowledge.**

- not having knowledge

Hosea 4:6 says, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."

- Being puffed up- it's not the end all of life.

Gaining knowledge of God's Word

Can be a worthy goal

If it leads us to the Lord

And nourishes our soul. –Sper

**Knowledge can be dangerous if it doesn't lead to wisdom.**

☐ **1 Corinthians 8:1** Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth.

Ill.- Man after doing Liberty Home Bible Institute

- Attacks against knowledge

**2 Corinthians 10:5** Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

☐ **1 Timothy 6:20** O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called:

### ➤ 3 Practical ways to add knowledge to our faith

Napoleon used to say, “Conquest has made me what I am, and conquest must maintain me.” O Christians, remember that you must advance or backslide; you must build higher and higher, love must become more and more supreme in your souls, or you will decline.

God doesn't ask us to increase our knowledge for the sake of knowledge. He asks us to increase our understanding so that we can grow into God-centered, loving, productive people. That's why we should want to know. —Martin De Haan (Our Daily Bread)

- Time
- Bible
- Intimacy

**Manser** in his book **Zondervan Dictionary of Bible Themes** has the following Scriptural summation on the nature of spiritual growth..

Having given spiritual life to his people, God expects them to grow to maturity.

God desires the spiritual growth of his people -

Aspects of spiritual growth -

Growth in grace - [2 Peter 3:18](#) See also [Proverbs 4:18](#); [1 Peter 2:1-3](#)

Growth in faith - [2 Thessalonians 1:3](#) See also [2 Corinthians 10:15](#)

Growth in love - [1 Thessalonians 3:12](#) See also [Romans 5:5](#); [1 Corinthians 14:1](#); [Philippians 1:9](#); [1 Thessalonians 4:9-10](#); [Hebrews 10:24](#); [1 John 4:7-21](#); [5:1-3](#)

Growth in understanding - [Psalms 119:27](#); [1 Corinthians 14:20](#) See also [Psalms 119:97-99](#); [Romans 12:2](#); [16:19](#); [1 Corinthians 13:11](#); [Ephesians 1:17-19](#); [Philippians 1:9-10](#); [Colossians 1:9](#); [Hebrews 5:14](#)

Growth in holiness - [2 Corinthians 7:1](#) See also [Ephesians 5:25-26](#); [Hebrews 2:11](#); [10:10-14](#); [12:14](#); [13:12](#); [1 Peter 1:15-16](#)

Growth in fruitfulness - [John 15:16](#) See also [Matthew 13:23](#) pp [Mark 4:20](#) pp [Luke 8:15](#); [John 15:2,8](#); [Philippians 1:11](#); [Col 1:10](#)

Growth in contentment - [Philippians 4:11-12](#) See also [1 Timothy 6:6](#); [Hebrews 13:5](#)

## How To Grow In Knowledge

***Read the Scriptures.*** If one is to grow in biblical knowledge, it is logical to go to the Scriptures themselves and spend time in simply reading them. Ezra did this in the time of Nehemiah so the people would have a better understanding of the Law of Moses. **“And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law...They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading”** (Ne. 8:3, 8).

In another example which shows the importance of reading, consider when a copy of the Law was found after being neglected during the time of Josiah. **“Go, inquire of the Lord for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found. For great is the wrath of the Lord that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us”** (2 Ki. 22:13).

Similar instruction is found in the New Testament as well. Paul reminded Timothy to give attention to reading in addition to exhortation and teaching (1 Timothy 4:13).

At times it may be a good idea to consult *reliable* reference tools, such as concordances or commentaries, to gain a better understanding. While caution must be exercised with outside resources, it can be beneficial to one’s study as long as it is understood that such are simply tools not to be elevated to the same level as Scripture.

***Apply what has been read.*** Reading is beneficial and absolutely critical when it comes to obtaining knowledge, but it must be realized that reading alone isn’t enough. What is read must be applied to our everyday lives; otherwise it’s of no benefit. It is important to remember the words of James: **“For if anyone is a hearer of the word and *not a doer*, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like”** (James 1:23-24). Knowledge is a good thing but it must be put to use (Hebrews 5:14).

## Why We Must Add Knowledge

**To go from infants to maturity.** Physical development of the body and mind take place as a child grows from infancy to adulthood. Likewise, Christians must do this in a spiritual sense. There are instructions regarding this.

Immaturity was why Paul wasn't able to address Corinth as he wished to do (1 Corinthians 3:1-3). The Hebrew writer faced the same problem, which prompted his point that a knowledgeable Christian is one who is able to go beyond the basics (Hebrews 5:12-6:1). Peter likewise reminds his readers to grow in this manner (1 Peter 2:2).

A lack of knowledge is one of the reasons some of the problems within the Lord's church exist. If there were an unusually high infant mortality rate, there would be action taken to determine the reasons why and how to prevent it. Yet, in a spiritual sense some never grow past infancy. It is the duty of mature Christians to assist them in their growth and walk in Christ.

**To withstand false doctrines and Satan.** One of Paul's great concerns for his brethren is found in his letter to Ephesus. His desire was for them to not be "**children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes**" (Ephesians 4:14).

There are numerous warnings about false doctrines and those who teach them throughout Scripture. They are written within the inspired pages so that we may not be deceived by error. Some brethren are led astray by these things simply because they do not study the Scriptures as God intended them to be read; rather, they look at them through the lenses of their presuppositions. Studying in context without preconceived biases will prevent this from being an issue.

In addition to false doctrine, Paul's other concern was Satan himself. Thus, he further instructed the Ephesians to withstand the devil by putting on the armor of God (Ephesians 6). Just as a soldier must be adequately equipped to meet his enemy on the battlefield, Christians must be equally prepared to meet our spiritual enemy. Knowledge is one way in which this can be accomplished.

<p>☐ <b>Ephesians 3:19</b> And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.</p> <p>☐ <b>Philippians 3:8</b> Yea doubtless, and I count all things <i>but</i> loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them <i>but</i> dung, that I may win Christ,</p>
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## Knowledge

- Are you growing in your knowledge of God's Word and His ways?
- Are you growing in your knowledge of God, in an intimate relationship with Him?
- What are you doing to nurture your relationship with Him and to get to know Him better?
- Are you spending consistent time seeking to know Him through the study of His Word and prayer?
- What things are you most motivated and interested to learn about?
- Are you able to take the Word and apply it to your life circumstances and to use it to minister to the needs of others?

Think of how you can apply what the passage has taught you. This is hard work, but until you complete this step, you will not gain very much from your Bible study. If you don't apply your Bible study, you remain only a hearer of the Word and not doer of the Word.

☐ **2 Corinthians 2:14** Now thanks **be** unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge **by** us in every place.

☐ **2 Peter 3:18** But grow in grace, and **in** the knowledge **of** our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him **be** glory both now and for ever. Amen.