

# THE POWER OF KNOWLEDGE

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**TEXT: 2 Peter 1:1-5**

## INTRODUCTION

1. Growing in the knowledge of God is a process.
2. It begins with a foundation of faith (trust, conviction)
3. To faith and virtue we are told to add knowledge.
4. Knowledge is an essential element in growing in the knowledge of God.

## I. THE DEFINITION OF KNOWLEDGE

- A. The word knowledge is used in two different ways.
- B. Peter uses the word knowledge in the phrase "the knowledge of God and our Savior Jesus Christ" - **2 Peter 1:2** and it means "to become thoroughly acquainted with, to know thoroughly, to know accurately, know well."
- C. Peter uses the word again in **2 Peter 1:5** which means "a seeking to know, an inquiry, investigation."
- D. This word conveys the normal idea of knowledge which is a knowing through study and experience.
- E. This knowledge pertains to understanding the will of God and the way of God through His Word.
- F. So we are add to our faith and virtue knowledge or information necessary to truly know Jesus Christ and His will for our life.

## II. TO HAVE KNOWLEDGE IS NOT AN OPTION

- A. God expects us to develop our knowledge.
  1. He expected it of Israel - **Deuteronomy 6:6-9**.
  2. He foretold that it would be a characteristic of the New Covenant - **Jeremiah 31:31-34**.
  3. To be pleasing to the Lord, we must have a knowledge of Him and His will - **Colossians 1:9-10**.
- B. A lack of knowledge puts us at a disadvantage.
  1. Israel was destroyed because of their lack of knowledge – **Hosea 4:1,6**.
  2. Without knowledge, all the sincerity and zeal in the world is in vain! - **Romans 10:1-3**.

## III. THE SOURCE OF KNOWLEDGE

- A. The Word of God is the ultimate source of true knowledge - **Colossians 2:1-3**.
- B. The knowledge which we are to add to our faith and virtue is found only in the pages of God's Word!
- C. In our search for knowledge we must have a heart that longs and searches for knowledge -
- D. A person in search for knowledge will make daily Bible reading a priority in their life!
- E. They will utilize every opportunity to study the Word of God.
- G. If one is diligent in their study of God's Word, their spiritual growth will be evident - **1 Timothy 4:15-16**.

#### **IV. THE MISUSE OF KNOWLEDGE**

- A. Knowledge has the potential to produce arrogance - **1 Corinthians 8:1-2**.
- B. It can "puff up" rather than "build up" or edify.
- C. We must temper our knowledge with love and meekness.
- D. What knowledge or wisdom we believe we have, should manifest itself in a spirit of meekness - **James 3:13,17**.
- E. There is no virtue in knowledge if it leads to arrogance!
- F. Knowledge can be destructive when misused - **1 Corinthians 8:4-11**.

#### **CONCLUSION**

1. With the proper application of knowledge we can build up our faith, as faith comes from God's Word.
2. God said, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge..."
3. To our faith and virtue, let us be sure to add knowledge, that we might truly grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ!