

Peter said... *“And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith...”* (2Peter 1:5-7)



INTRODUCTION

In Peter’s last words, the Holy Spirit led him to write about seven things that must be added to your faith in order that you might be more fruitful for Jesus Christ and bring Him more glory. Tonight, we will explore the second one: knowledge.

1. A biblical **DEFINITION** of knowledge found in Webster’s 1828 Dictionary:

A clear and certain perception of that which exists or of truth and fact; the perception of the connection and agreement or disagreement and repugnancy of our ideas.

Learning; illumination of mind

2. A biblical **STUDY** of knowledge.

✓ The word knowledge is found 172 times in 169 verses in the KJV

- 1) **Genesis 2:9 and 17** and Genesis 3:7-8: This first mention demonstrates that of all the attributes we are told to add, this one can be damaging if not done carefully. In its first mention, knowledge is a negative thing. Why? Because without knowledge of evil, Adam and Eve would never have sinned and conceived sinful ideas. They would have walked daily with God and lived according to his example to perfection. Consider these verses: Romans 16:19 and Jeremiah 4:22.
- 2) **Exodus 31:1-6**: The next use of the word is its first use in a positive context. Notice its first positive mention is God-given knowledge. Consider these verses: John 1:9 and Romans 1:19-20; 2:15.

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- 3) **Matthew 14:33-36:** First NT mention of knowledge shows knowledge of Jesus causes people to speak of him and brings healing to those who come to him. The contrast between God-given knowledge and knowledge of evil could not be more polar. Consider these versus: Psalm 139:1-6 and Ecclesiastes 1:18/Isaiah 11:1-9 and Isaiah 44:24-25.

3. A practical **APPLICATION** of knowledge.

✓ How to gain God-given knowledge: scripture, prayer and godly counsel

- 1) God’s Word is the primary source of knowledge.
 - Proverbs 2:6-7: knowledge, wisdom and understanding are closely correlated (Proverbs 9:10). Notice what these things bring to your life when you get them from God (Proverbs 3:13, 16, 17, 23 and 24).
 - Psalm 119:9 and 119:104: Learning of God’s ways will cleanse your life and cause you to hate evil.
- 2) Beyond reading the Bible, asking God for wisdom and guidance is a path to knowledge.
 - James 1:5: God is ready to dispense wisdom and knowledge.
- 3) Search out godly individuals in your life and learn from them (I Corinthians 11:1).
 - Proverbs 11:14 and 15:22
- 4) Even godly knowledge can be problematic when not used.
 - I Corinthians 8:1: Knowledge without application just makes a person vain and conceited.
 - James 4:17: Not acting upon godly knowledge becomes a sin of omission.
 - Luke 12:48: Knowledge brings accountability. We should all soberly consider the words to whom much is given much is required.
 - James 1:25: Knowledge from the scriptures brings blessing, but this promise is only to those who do what they know.
- 5) We represent Christ (II Corinthians 5:20) and knowledge with hypocrisy can bring great ruin.
 - Proverbs 5:1-6 and 20-21, I Kings 11:1-6, and I Kings 12:6-8 and 16, and II Chronicles 11:21 and 12:1.

Conclusion: God has given us all things pertaining to life and godliness (II Peter 1:3), but knowledge without follow-through is vain and destructive. The goal is not simply to know things, but to gain knowledge for the purpose of doing what is right. Consider Joshua 1:8. This verse talks about meditating on God’s Word that thou **mayest observe to do**. Consider this is the only verse in the KJV that contains the word success. Don’t we all want to be successful? Understand what that really looks like: II Timothy 4:7. In order to finish like Paul, we must understand that knowledge puffeth up just like he said and must strive to do what we know.