

EXCEL IN KNOWLEDGE

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2 Corinthians 8:7

Dictionary definition

1. Facts, information, skills acquired through experience or education; theoretical or practical understanding.
2. Awareness or familiarity through experience of fact or situation.

Knowing the Bible and being able to parrot it out is not knowledge.

Greek for Knowledge – Gnosis

- a) Knowledge signifies in general intelligence, understanding.
- b) The deeper more perfect and enlarged knowledge of this religion, such as belongs to the more advanced.
- c) Things lawful and unlawful for Christians
- d) Moral wisdom, such as is seen in right living

If we are to excel in knowledge it suggests that we are looking at b.

What does the Bible say about knowledge?

Knowledge in the Bible denotes an understanding, a recognition or an acknowledgment. Knowledge is the deeper appreciation of something or a relationship with someone. We know from Scripture that knowledge is a gift from God.

Proverbs 2:6

The Lord gives wisdom that comes and this results in knowledge and understanding and we need to ask for it.

James 1:5

God's desire is for all to know Him, appreciate Him, and have a relationship with Him.

Proverbs 1:7

God gives the gift of knowledge out of His infinite store of knowledge.

Psalms 19:2

God's knowledge and creative power are on display continually in His creation.

Romans 1:19-20

Not only is God's knowledge infinite, but it is absolute.

Romans 11:33

When God came to earth as Jesus Christ, He became the embodiment of knowledge.

Colossians 2:2-3

Human knowledge is flawed. The Bible says it is worthless because it isn't tempered by love.

1 Corinthians 13:2

The knowledge man possesses tends to make us proud.

1 Corinthians 8:1, Proverbs 3:5-8

The pursuit of knowledge for its own sake, without seeking God, is foolishness.

Ecclesiastes 1:17-18

Worldly knowledge is false and opposed to the truth, Paul says to guard Godly wisdom.

1 Timothy 6:20-21

Human knowledge is opposed to God's knowledge and therefore is no knowledge at all; rather, it is foolishness.

For the Christian, knowledge implies a relationship.

Genesis 4:1

It means he had a physical union with her. Spiritual relationships are also described this way. Jesus used *know* to refer to His saving relationship with those who follow Him.

John 10:14, John 8:32

Jesus said to unbelieving Jews, "*You do not know my Father.*" So, to know Christ is to have faith in Him, follow Him, have a relationship with Him, love and be loved by Him.

John 14:7, 1 Corinthians 8:3, Galatians 4:9, 2 Timothy 2:19

Increasing in the knowledge of God is part of Christian maturity and is something all Christians should experience.

2 Peter 3:18

Question:

"How are people destroyed from a lack of knowledge?" (Hosea 4:6)

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." (Hosea 4:6, NKJV)

Why was that lack of knowledge so dangerous? The rest of Verse 6 explains it.

Hosea 4:1

The people did not simply lack knowledge; they actively rejected it.

Israel had "*rejected*" knowledge (God's Law), God would "*reject*" them. Because Israel had "*forgotten*" God's Law, He would "*forget*" their children. Leading to destruction.

Deuteronomy 28, Hosea 4:1-2

Israel's lack of knowledge was not mere ignorance, but active sin against God. Israel was conquered by Assyria during Hosea's ministry.

Jesus Christ illustrates God's love to the fullest degree. Jesus died for the sins of all people, offering every person the opportunity to come to faith in Him.

John 3:16, Ephesians 2:8-9

To those who do believe, Jesus is "*wisdom from God*"

1 Corinthians 1:30

Because of Christ we should never be "*destroyed from a lack of knowledge*".