

2 Peter 1:5-8 KJV

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; [6] And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; [7] And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. [8] For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

BLOCK 2: KNOWLEDGE

In the last meditation, we considered virtue and the fact that this virtue has been given to us as part of the first born right in Christ. Today, we will consider knowledge. *2 Peter 1:2* says grace and peace come to us by the knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ. The knowledge in this verse is “Epignosis” which is a precise and accurate knowledge. This knowledge comes from our union with God. It comes as we devote time to the things of God. It takes a pure heart that wants to know God to receive this knowledge.

The knowledge spoken about in *2 Peter 1:6* is Gnosis which speaks of a general intelligence. You can compare Epignosis to Science. It is a clear, accurate, tested and tried knowledge. However, Gnosis is more like technology, which is the intelligence needed to put the Epignosis to work. Technology is the application of scientific knowledge. It is the more practical aspect of knowledge. *John 1:76-77* speaks of John the Baptist who was destined to show the people a practical knowledge of salvation by the remission of their sins. It is more than just knowing the law. Lawyers for example interpret the law to apply to real life situation. This knowledge is not a head knowledge, but a heart knowledge. David in *Psalms 45:1* says my heart is inditing a good matter. During his meditation on things pertaining to His King, there was a marrying of the mouth and his heart, and this resulted in a prophetic praise. The head knowledge on its own can be a hinderance as Jesus mentioned to the lawyers in *Luke 11:52-53* who locked up knowledge from the masses by emphasizing the written word without true knowledge. These people had the law, but no Gnosis to apply this, *Romans 2:19-22*. *2 Corinthians 4:6* says that the Gnosis of the Glory of God is revealed in the face of Jesus. However, this is given by God as we expose ourselves to the face of the Word of God. As we diligently look at and meditate on His face, true knowledge breaks upon us that leads to salvation.

As an aside, a practical application of this knowledge was spoken about in *1 Peter 3:7*, where Peter admonished husbands in their interaction to their wives based on prophetic insight. The husband was admonished to dwell with his wife with knowledge (Gnosis) based on the revelation that she is a weaker vessel. This weaker vessel has nothing to do with her Spirit, but her physical frame. *2 Corinthians 4:7* shows that a weaker vessel is one in which God chooses to reveal the excellency of His power through. 1

Corinthians 12:23-24 also shows that God bestows the weaker vessel with double honour. This understanding helps women understand their unique place in the church. *Ruth 4:11* says that Rachael and Leah built the house of the Lord. We also see the counsel of an unnamed wise woman in *2 Samuel 20:13-22* whose wisdom saved an entire city when she interacted with both Joab the commander of David's army and the men of the city. This understanding will also help the woman value the place of a man, as we see Deborah deferring the forefront leadership to Barak. This understanding will also guide the interaction between a husband and his wife, treating her with dignity and esteem of the highest order as Peter admonishes, that his prayers are not hindered.

Proverbs 2:1-2 encourages us to apply our heart to understanding. *Proverbs 24:3-4* shows us that through Wisdom a house is built and by knowledge the house will be filled with all precious and pleasant riches. This knowledge from the Lord is too wonderful and worth seeking after as Paul exclaims in *Romans 11:33*.

Tributaries of knowledge:

1. Knowledge is profitable for doctrine: *1 Corinthians 14:4* shows that the ministry of the Word can come by revelation or by knowledge. *Isaiah 28:9* also mentioned that it takes a person who is weaned from the milk (not a babe, *Hebrews 5:13*) to give knowledge.
2. Knowledge is profitable for counsel: In *Job 38:1-3*, we see God's answer to Job after his frustration-filled rant. God asked him who spoke counsel without knowledge of His own sovereignty and Wisdom. After this questioning, in *Job 42:1-5*, Job admitted to his ignorance and responded as one that now had knowledge. Counsel comes based on the true knowledge of God. In *Luke 7:28-30* John had showed a counsel of God for the salvation of Israel and their repentance and baptism; this counsel that the Pharisees rejected due to a lack of knowledge.
3. Knowledge is profitable for timing: *1 Chronicles 12:32* speaks of the sons of Issachar who understood the times and knew what Israel ought to do at any given time. This is a practical knowledge.
4. Knowledge is profitable for conduct: *1 Samuel 18:30* shows David, based on understanding, knowing how to conduct himself. Knowledge trickles down to Wisdom for living. This knowledge guides out interaction with both believers and unbelievers, *1 Corinthians 13:11*, *2 Thessalonians 3:7-9*, *1 timothy 3:15*, *2 timothy 3:15-18*. This knowledge is what furnishes a man of God.

Finally, knowledge works by love. Knowledge without love lead to pride. Hence, we must exercise knowledge in consideration of our brethren. Paul in *1 Corinthians 8* admonished us that though knowledge is liberating,

we should not use this liberty to cause the destruction of one that Christ died for. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies.

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!

Romans 11:33 KJV

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with your Spirit. Amen