

2 Peter 1 - Add Knowledge

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Specific Purpose of this message:

Today we'll take a deeper look into a trait or characteristic Peter tells us we need in 2 Peter 1 - Knowledge!

Need:

We live in world that doesn't want or heed the knowledge of God:

Job 21:14 KJV - Therefore they say unto God, Depart from us; for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways.

Hosea 4:1 KJV - Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because [there is] no truth, nor mercy, **nor knowledge of God in the land.**

...

Hosea 4:6 KJV - **My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge:** because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

Romans 1:28 KJV - And even as they did not like to retain God in [their] knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

Main Points:

God is the source of true knowledge:

Exodus 31:1 KJV - And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Exodus 31:2 KJV - See, I have called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah:

Exodus 31:3 KJV - And **I have filled him with the spirit of God**, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship,

...

Exodus 31:6 KJV - And I, behold, I have given with him Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan: and in the hearts of all that are wise hearted I have put wisdom, that they may make all that I have commanded thee;

Daniel 1:17 KJV - As for these four children, **God gave them knowledge** and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

Daniel 2:21 KJV - And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and **[he gives] knowledge to them that know understanding:**

But we need to seek Knowledge (and understanding and wisdom) and ask for it.

2 Chronicles 1:7 KJV - In that night did God appear unto Solomon, and said unto him, Ask what I shall give thee.

2 Chronicles 1:8 KJV - And Solomon said unto God, Thou hast shewed great mercy unto David my father, and hast made me to reign in his stead.

2 Chronicles 1:9 KJV - Now, O LORD God, let thy promise unto David my father be established: for thou hast made me king over a people like the dust of the earth in multitude.

2 Chronicles 1:10 KJV - **Give me now wisdom and knowledge**, that I may go out and come in before this people: for who can judge this thy people, [that is so] great?

2 Chronicles 1:11 KJV - And God said to Solomon, Because this was in thine heart, and thou hast not asked riches, wealth, or honour, nor the life of thine enemies, neither yet hast asked long life; but hast asked wisdom and knowledge for thyself, that thou mayest judge my people, over whom I have made thee king:

2 Chronicles 1:12 KJV - **Wisdom and knowledge [is] granted unto thee**; and I will give thee riches, and wealth, and honour, such as none of the kings have had that [have been] before thee, neither shall there any after thee have the like.

Proverbs 2:1 KJV - My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;

Proverbs 2:2 KJV - So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, [and] apply thine heart to understanding;

Proverbs 2:3 KJV - Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, [and] liftest up thy voice for understanding;

Proverbs 2:4 KJV - If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as [for] hid treasures;

Proverbs 2:5 KJV - Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.

Proverbs 2:6 KJV - For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth [cometh] knowledge and understanding.

Faith before wisdom(and knowledge)...

James 1:3 KJV - Knowing [this], that the trying of your **faith worketh patience**.

James 1:4 KJV - But let patience have [her] perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

James 1:5 KJV - If any of you lack wisdom, **let him ask of God, that giveth to all [men] liberally**, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

So we need faith to ask God to give us knowledge.

And we need virtue to discern between the knowledge of good and evil, to do that which is good.

Paul warns of the perils of knowledge:

1 Corinthians 8:1 NLT - Now regarding your question about food that has been offered to idols. Yes, we know that "we all have knowledge" about this issue. **But while knowledge makes us feel important, it is love that strengthens the church.**

1 Corinthians 8:2 NLT - Anyone who claims to know all the answers doesn't really know very much.

1 Corinthians 8:3 NLT - But the person who loves God is the one whom God recognizes.

1 Corinthians 8:4 NLT - So, what about eating meat that has been offered to idols? Well, we all know that an idol is not really a god and that there is only one God.

1 Corinthians 8:5 NLT - There may be so-called gods both in heaven and on earth, and some people actually worship many gods and many lords.

1 Corinthians 8:6 NLT - But we **know** that there is only one God, the Father, who created everything, and we live for him. And there is only one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom God made everything and through whom we have been given life.

1 Corinthians 8:7 NLT - However, **not all believers know this**. Some are accustomed to thinking of idols as being real, so when they eat food that has been offered to idols, they think of it as the worship of real gods, and their weak consciences are violated.

1 Corinthians 8:8 NLT - It's true that we can't win God's approval by what we eat. We don't lose anything if we don't eat it, and we don't gain anything if we do.

1 Corinthians 8:9 NLT - **But you must be careful so that your freedom does not cause others with a weaker conscience to stumble.**

1 Corinthians 8:10 NLT - For if others see you--with your "**superior knowledge**"--eating in the temple of an idol, won't they be encouraged to violate their conscience by eating food that has been offered to an idol?

1 Corinthians 8:11 NLT - So because of your **superior knowledge**, a weak believer for whom Christ died will be destroyed.

1 Corinthians 8:12 NLT - And when you sin against other believers by encouraging them to do something they believe is wrong, you are sinning against Christ.

1 Corinthians 8:13 NLT - So if what I eat causes another believer to sin, I will never eat meat again as long as I live--for I don't want to cause another believer to stumble.

The English word knowledge is used many times in the Second Epistle of Peter, coming from multiple Greek words. Peter, in his last message to his fellow Christians - and recorded for us today, urged and implored that we GROW in grace and knowledge.

What we see Peter telling us is WHAT knowledge we need to be seeking

The first is from

G1922 = ἐπίγνωσις epígnōsis, ep-ig'-no-sis; from [G1921](#); recognition, i.e. (by implication) full discernment, acknowledgement:—(ac-)knowledge(-ing, -ment).

The KJV translates Strong's G1922 in the following manner: [knowledge](#) (16x), [acknowledging](#) (3x), [acknowledgement](#) (1x).

From The Outline of Biblical Usage:

- I. precise and correct knowledge

A. used in the NT of the knowledge of things ethical and divine

Used in 2 Peter:

2 Peter 1:2 KJV - Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge[G1922] **of God, and of Jesus our Lord,**

2 Peter 1:3 KJV - According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that [pertain] unto life and godliness, through the knowledge[G1922] **of him** that hath called us to glory and virtue:

2 Peter 1:8 KJV - For if these things be in you, and abound, they make [you that ye shall] neither [be] barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge[G1922] **of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

2 Peter 2:20 KJV - For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge[G1922] **of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,** they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

The opposite ie to NOT understand, be ignorant:

G50 = ἀγνοέω agnoéō, ag-no-eh'-o; from [G1](#) (as a negative particle) and [G3539](#); not to know (through lack of information or intelligence); by implication, to ignore (through disinclination [ie a lack of willingness or desire to do or accept something, reluctance]:—(be) ignorant(-ly), not know, not understand, unknown.

G3539 = νοιέω noiéō, noy-eh'-o; from [G3563](#); to exercise the mind (observe), i.e. (figuratively) to comprehend, heed:—consider, perceive, think, understand.

2 Timothy 2:7 KJV - Consider[G3539] what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.

Hebrews 11:3 KJV - Through faith we understand[G3539] that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

This is why FAITH is mentioned FIRST before virtue and knowledge

The second Greek word

G1108 = γνῶσις gnōsis, gno'-sis; from [G1097](#); knowing (the act), i.e. (by implication) knowledge:—knowledge, science

It is used 3 times in 2 Peter:

2 Peter 1:5 KJV - And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge:[G1108]

2 Peter 1:6 KJV - And to knowledge[G1108] temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

2 Peter 3:18 KJV - But grow in grace, and [in] the knowledge[G1108] **of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.** To him [be] glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Note that the direction given here in 2 Peter on the traits to grow and develop are in addition to the traits Peter had mentioned in his first epistle:

1 Peter 3:8 KJV - Finally, [be ye] all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, [be] pitiful (ie sympathetic & tenderhearted), [be] courteous:

1 Peter 3:9 KJV - Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; **knowing** that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.

1 Peter 3:10 KJV - For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:

1 Peter 3:11 KJV - Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.

1 Peter 3:12 KJV - For the eyes of the Lord [are] over the righteous, and his ears [are open] unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord [is] against them that do evil.

The word *knowledge* is used in the last verse Peter records, and in the verse before he uses the word *know*:

2 Peter 3:17 KJV - Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye **know** [these things] before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.

2 Peter 3:18 KJV - 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.

Conclusion:

Building on Faith and Virtue, Knowledge of God and Jesus Christ gives us the proper foundation to grow in other areas:

2 Peter 1:6 NKJV - to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness,

2 Peter 1:7 NKJV - to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.

2 Peter 1:8 NLT - The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:9 NLT - But those who fail to develop in this way are shortsighted or blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins.

2 Peter 1:10 NLT - So, dear brothers and sisters, work hard to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen. Do these things, and you will never fall away.

2 Peter 1:11 NLT - Then God will give you a grand entrance into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.