

Add To Your Faith - L4 *“Knowing God and His Word”*

Introduction - In this list, provided by Peter, we have been given particular areas of growth in the Christian life. The first area mentioned is virtue. This next area mentioned by the Holy Spirit—using the penman Peter — is knowledge. This area of knowledge has to do with knowing God.

Colossians 1:10 gives us the exhortation, *“10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and **increasing in the knowledge of God;**”*

God’s design of the earthly family helps us to understand what it means to be a part of the family of God. We can, in part, begin to understand what we mean by praying and saying *“Our Father which art in heaven...”* (Matthew 6:9). In Ephesians, we are told further that our marriage relationship is a picture of Christ and the church. We would think that it is perfectly natural to know our spouse the longer we are married to them. Just as we walk *“...worthy of the Lord to all pleasing...”* according to **Colossians 1:10**—in the normal Christian life, we ought also to increase in our knowledge of Him.

I. The Christian’s _____

Our deeper knowledge of the Lord and His ways comes from the Bible. As we look at the Bible, we come to understand that everything God has recorded is there for a purpose. **2 Timothy 3:16** *“16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:”* As we abound in knowledge, we must respond to that knowledge with obedience (virtue). This leads us to:

II. The Christian’s _____

What are the choices we have before us?

We have the choice to obey the Word of God or not to listen to the counsel of God. God desires for you and I not to be ruined by sin, but to be victorious trusting Him.

A. Choose the path of _____.

B. Choose the path of _____.

How often have we ignored our Father’s Word- and consequently have suffered the consequences of error? Each of these paths yields instruction, but one is certainly more painful than the other. The question for us tonight is which course are we going to take? It is far better to trust the Lord and draw close to Him than to live in danger of chastening correction.

III. The Christian’s _____

The Bible speaks much about the urgency for us to know God and His Word.

2 Corinthians 8:7 “7 Therefore, as ye **abound** in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and **knowledge**, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.”

A. We Are To _____ In Knowledge.

As in 2 Peter, knowledge of God and His Word is not an isolated area of the Christian life. In order to add to our faith virtue, we must also add knowledge. It is clear that we must not only begin to possess these things, but we must abound in them. In verse 8, we read, “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.” (**2 Peter 1:8**) Notice secondly,

B. We Are To Be _____ With Knowledge.

Colossians 1:9 “9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be **filled with the knowledge of his will** in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;”

How do we become filled with the knowledge of Him? Paul earnestly prayed for these Christians at Colossae- that they would be filled with the knowledge of God.

C. We Are To Be _____ In Knowledge

Colossians 3:10 “10 And have put on the new man, which is **renewed in knowledge** after the image of him that created him:”

It is a good thing for us to continually return to and rejoice in eternal truth. Renewal is necessary for the Christian. How does renewal take place? By saturating our hearts and minds with the Word of God. Now, we are greatly blessed to have many ways to grow in our knowledge of God and His Word.

1. Listen To The Preaching of God’s Word

The Bible emphasizes the preaching of His Word. We would understand from the Scriptures that the Lord has always had men to preach the Word of God, even from the very beginning. Enoch prophesied of the Lord’s return in **Jude 14**. He foretold of what was to come. Today, we do not **foretell**—but rather **forthtell**.

Titus 1:3 “3 But hath in due times **manifested his word through preaching**, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour;”

Let me encourage you to listen to the preaching of the Word of God. Preaching ought to be full of the Word of God, and preaching ought to fulfill three areas—the preacher is commanded to **reprove**, **rebuke**, and **exhort** with all longsuffering and doctrine according to **2 Timothy 4:2**.

To reprove means to admonish by bringing to light.

The reprovng work of the Word of God and the ministry of the Holy Spirit in our live ought to bring to light areas in the Christian life that need attention.

To rebuke means to ‘forbid’. There are warnings from the Word of God that God Himself emphasizes for our good. The preacher ought to emphasize what God emphasizes. When the Lord was dealing with the wayward church family of the Laodiceans, He stated this in **Revelation 3:19** “*19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.*”

To exhort means to “call near or invite.” In exhortation, the preacher is by the Word of God, urging a decision by a strong argument. **Hebrews 3:13** “*13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.*” These are the components of preaching and we understand that this is to be carried out with longsuffering and doctrine. Because Christian growth is a process, it is necessary for any teacher or preacher to be long-suffering.

2. Read God’s Word

What exactly is the purpose in reading the Word of God? We are endeavoring to know the Lord and His Word. It is through knowledge of Him and His Word that we are changed.

2 Peter 1:2 “*2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,*”

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

2 Peter 3:18 “*18 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.*”

Listen, you cannot go wrong by reading the Word of God.

3. Studying God’s Word

Adding knowledge in the Christian life must involve studying. The word study gives us the idea of making an effort. The admonishment of Paul to Timothy and to you and me as well is found in **2 Timothy 2:15**: “*15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*” There are two very good tools for study in the Scriptures that I would like us to consider—

A. _____

The Lord gave Joshua the following encouragement in **Joshua 1:8**.

Joshua 1:8 “8 *This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou **shalt meditate** therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.*”

Likewise, **Psalm 1:1–2** “1 *Blessed is the man That walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord; And in his law doth he **meditate day and night.***”

B. _____

Memorizing Scripture will lead to a wealth of truth for the Holy Spirit of God to use in your life.

Proverbs 22:17–18 says, “17 *Bow down thine ear, and hear the words of the wise, And **apply thine heart unto my knowledge.** 18 For it is a pleasant thing if thou keep them within thee; They shall withal be fitted in thy lips.*”

Adding to our faith — knowledge is a lifelong process. Wherever you are in your walk with the Lord, commit to growing even more in your knowledge of Him and His Word.