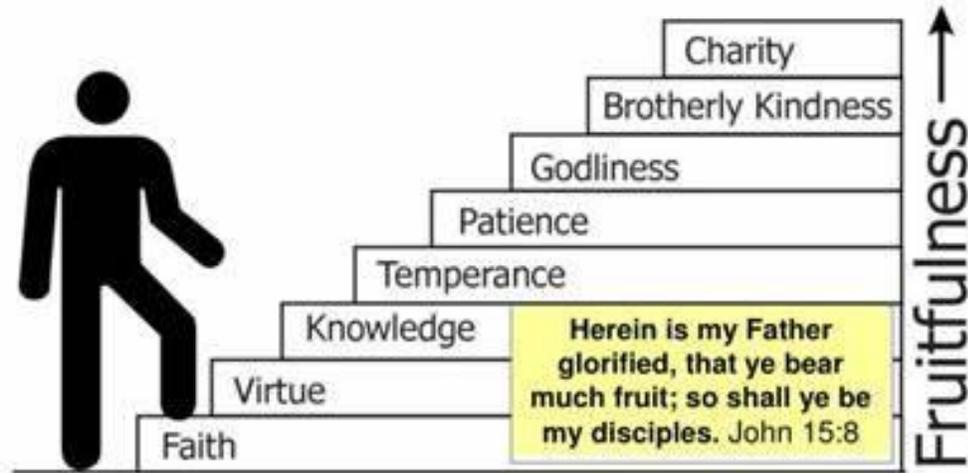


God's Call to Spiritual Growth

The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand. Psalm 37:23,24



JANUARY BIBLE STUDY SERIES

SOLID STEPS OF CHRISTIAN GROWTH

LESSON THREE

Lesson Four:
Add To Your Faith Knowledge

Scripture Lesson:
II Peter 1:5-7

II Peter 1:5-7, But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.

Two Definitions Of Knowledge

1. The Greek root word for knowledge is “gnosis” information, facts, and important details.

2. The Greek word is “epignosis” knowledge that comes from truly knowing someone, growing close together in a relationship.

New Testament Examples of “epignosis” knowledge:

- **Romans 10:2, "For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge (epignosis)."**
- **Ephesians 4:13, Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.**
- **I Timothy 2:4, Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.**
- **II Timothy 3:7, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.**

New Testament Examples of (gnosis) knowledge:

- **II Peter 3:18, (gnosis) But grow in grace, and in the knowledge (gnosis) of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen.**

- **I Corinthians 1:5, That in everything ye are enriched by Him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge.**

- **I Corinthians 8:1, Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but charity**

edifies

- **II Corinthians 8:7, Therefore, as ye abound in everything, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also."**
- **Philippians 3:10, That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death.**



Growing Through Scripture

THE BIBLE IS:

- **A Lamp**
- **The Living and Active Word**
- **A Spiritual Mirror**
- **“God-breathed”**
- **The Sword of the Spirit**
- **The Source of True Wisdom.**

The Search For Knowledge
Four Attitudes That Are Needed:

**1. A Heart That Longs And
Searches For Knowledge.**

Proverbs 2:3-6 (NKJV), Yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift your voice for understanding, if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; Then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding.

**2. A Mind That Values
Knowledge More Highly Than
Gold.**

Proverbs 8:10-11, Receive my instruction, and not silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold; For wisdom is better than rubies, and all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her.

3. A Love For Instruction

Proverbs 12:1, Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is stupid.

**A Spiritual Analogy - The
Contrasts
Between “Milk” And “Meat”**

**“The Christian is bred by the
Word and he must be fed by it.”**

1 Peter 2:1-3, Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

The word “milk” in the Greek (gala) means the basic, elemental teachings of Christianity first learned by new believers.

**Some books are written
to inform, a few to reform but
only one can truly transform!**

1 Corinthians 3:1-3 (NKJV), And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?

“A well-read bible is a sign of a well-fed soul.”

Hebrews 5:12 (NKJV), For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teaches you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

**The words “meat” and “strong
meat” refer to deeper, more
complex Christian teachings.**

**My People Are Destroyed For
Lack Of Knowledge.**

Anyone who ignores knowledge is setting up himself for the hard life.

**Hosea 4:6, “My people are destroyed
for lack of knowledge...”**

***A little learning can be a
dangerous thing.***

Three Ways To Add Knowledge To Your Faith:

I. THROUGH DAILY DEVOTION

Matthew 4:4, But he answered and said, it is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.

Psalms 55:17, Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.

Job 23:12, Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.

II. THROUGH DILIGENT INVESTIGATION

II Timothy 2:15, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

II Timothy 3:14-17, "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, Knowledge for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

SIX WAYS TO STUDY:

Six Ways to Study:

A. Study Corporately

B. Study Topically

C. Study Expository

D. Study Hermeneutically

E. Study Practically

F. Study Diligently

III. THROUGH DUTIFUL APPLICATION

The only thing that is stopping you is You. Distractions, misplaced priorities, and laziness are the things that are keeping you from obeying the Lord's command.

Bible Study Follow up Chat Questions:

- 1. Why is faith in God more important than knowledge of God?**
- 2. What is considered “real” knowledge?**
- 3. For the Christian, knowledge implies a relationship. How so?**
- 4. How has the knowledge of the scriptures enhanced your walk with God?**
- 5. How do you grow in the knowledge of God?**

6. Are you satisfied with the amount of time you spend in your devotional time with God? If not, what is your strategy to do better?

7. Have you grown in your knowledge of God and His Word? Do you know more now than you did last year?

8. Why, when it comes to Christianity, are many satisfied to just rely on our emotions or what we arbitrarily think?