

speaking to God's people

# freegiftfromgod

bible studies

Subject: **Walking with Jesus – Pt 3 – Knowledge**

## Scripture

Introduction

## Commentary

The apostle Peter defined a process to help people to progress as Christians, and so I will be using the pattern he defined in 2 Peter 1:5-7, which says:

*5 For this very reason make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge,*

*6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness,*

*7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.*

Having covered the first two aspects of this process, faith and virtue, let us now go on to the next, which is knowledge.

There is no doubt that if you are going to be good at anything you need to “know” something about it. The same applies to us as Christians. We need to understand what it means to be a Christian and how to apply

	<p>the lessons of Jesus Christ in our lives. The purpose of knowledge for a Christian is to grow into maturity in Jesus Christ. When we are mature we are no longer unstable and thrown about by the many false doctrines and teaching ascribed to Christianity but are not. So let's move forward and see what the Bible says about this knowledge aspect.</p>
Proverbs 1:7	<p>If you ever want to start a discussion about knowledge and wisdom, where better than to look at the writings of Solomon who was reputed to be the wisest of all men. Solomon made this point concerning where knowledge and wisdom begins. He said,</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.”</i></p> <p>As Christians we are well aware that all knowledge and wisdom sits with God. We come to Him when we seek understanding and He freely provides it to us. In fact Jesus promised that we would receive whatever we ask for in His will. He also taught us saying,</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“Ask and it will be given you, Seek and you will find, Knock and it will be opened to you.”</i></p> <p>So if you are lacking in knowledge about anything, come to the Lord in prayer and in faith knowing that He will provide the answers you need. He will give you what you need to understand His way and His will because He wants us to learn his ways and to follow God in obedience to His word.</p> <p>And wisdom and knowledge will protect us for they will assist us to prevail over the issues of this life and the passions and desires of our flesh. We can have the victory in the knowledge of Jesus Christ and the salvation that comes through the knowledge of the teachings of the New Covenant. But how are we to gain this knowledge and to know what it is we need to know to receive His blessings and this salvation that is on offer?</p>
Rom 10:17	<p>Paul provides the answer to this question. He said in this scripture:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes by the preaching of Christ.”</i></p>

	<p>Faith is the means by which we stand before God, and specifically faith in the resurrection and the power of the blood of Jesus to take away our sins. We strengthen this faith through the knowledge that comes through the preaching of the gospel.</p> <p>It makes perfect sense. How can you have faith and believe in something you don't have any knowledge of? And conversely the more you know about a subject the more you can understand what it is all about.</p> <p>So too with Christ. The more we learn through teaching, preaching, study of the word &amp; seeking the Lord in prayer, the more our knowledge grows and the stronger our faith becomes. It is important to increase your knowledge of the word so that your faith is not blind but is based upon the strong foundation that is Jesus Christ.</p>
Eph 4:11-16	<p>But we do not learn and increase our knowledge just for the sake of knowing more. There is a purpose to the search for the knowledge of Jesus Christ and the truth of the New Covenant. It's purpose is so that we may grow and become strong in Jesus. Just as a child grows and becomes mature, we too need to grow and be mature in Jesus Christ so that we are not like children and open to abuse. We need the knowledge of Christ so that we can stand in the face of powerful opposition and be rooted and grounded in the truth so as to rebuke any attacks of the evil one or his servants. We see this outlined in this scripture:</p> <p><i>11 And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers,</i></p> <p><i>12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,</i></p> <p><i>13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;</i></p> <p><i>14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the cunning of men, by their craftiness in deceitful wiles.</i></p> <p><i>15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,</i></p> <p><i>16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every joint with which it is supplied, when each part is working properly, makes bodily growth and up-builds itself in love.</i></p>

	<p>The Lord gave gifts to the church for the purpose of teaching the people in their care so that they would become mature in Christ. He does not want us to be tossed about to and fro for lack of knowledge not knowing who or what to believe. That is why he gave gifts to the church so that we can learn from Him, and be guided by the Holy Spirit so that through knowledge we become mature and stable.</p>
Pro 1:22	<p>We saw in the first scripture above that Solomon wrote “Fools hate wisdom.” They also hate knowledge as he showed later in the same chapter where he wrote,</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge”</i></p> <p>How long indeed! Knowledge leads to insight and insight brings wisdom. It is a fool who despises the processes that would lead to wisdom, especially when it comes to the knowledge of the ways of God.</p> <p>And it is possible to be a fool who despises wisdom without even knowing it! Those who attend church and listen blindly to what is preached on the platform without seeking for themselves to understand the truth of the message are like fools who despise knowledge.</p> <p>Do you not realise that when we all come before the judgement seat of God, we will be there alone? No one else will stand with us and we shall have to give account for ourselves. You will not be able to rely on your pastor, priest or minister on that day, which is why we all need to seek the truth today.</p> <p>The challenge of not seeking for yourself is that you may be following someone who does not know. It may be the blind leading the blind for if the person teaching gets it wrong, and you blindly follow along, then both of you will fall. Look at this issue that Jesus spoke about.</p>

Matt 22:29	<p>Jesus was approached by the Sadducees who tried to entangle him in his talk and ministry. The problem was they did not know what they were talking about and Jesus bluntly told them so.</p> <p>They came asking him about which of seven brother whom a woman had married she would belong to in the resurrection since she had been wife to them all. The malice of the Sadducees was obvious because in the first place, they did not believe in the resurrection of the dead, so how could they speak knowledgeably about something they knew nothing about?</p> <p>And Jesus pointed out their lack of knowledge saying,</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"You are wrong, because you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God."</i></p> <p>Upon which he then explained to them why they were wrong and how they were in error, which you can read for yourself.</p> <p>The point here though is that these men were ignorant of the truth and had no knowledge about what they were talking about. That is why they were fools because they held themselves out to be knowledgeable, and they were not.</p>
1 Tim 6:20-21	<p>Just like the lack of knowledge of the Sadducees above, there are many who hold to false knowledge. Lies and half-truths have been taken up as if they were truth and held to be truth when in fact they have nothing to do with the truth. The classic example in this world is the stubborn clinging to the Theory of Evolution as if it is fact when it has been disproved and is so full of holes that it has no shred of credibility. Even the name says it is a "theory" and not fact, and yet it is taught in schools as fact and is nothing but a giant lie and a hoax to take away the truth of the knowledge of God.</p> <p>Paul warns us about such things and tells us to beware. He writes to Timothy saying,</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you. Avoid the godless chatter and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge, for by professing it some have missed the mark as regards the faith.</i></p>

	<p>So not only do lies persist in the world, they exist in the church too. And it is no wonder for the devil will do all he can to lead God's people astray. There are many things taught in the modern Christian church that have no basis in the truth of the New Covenant. Knowledge of the truth takes away these lies and shines the light of Jesus Christ on them so that they can be seen to be lies.</p> <p>Consider this as an example and think about this. I will ask you two simple questions and see if you can answer them. You might find the truth is not what you expect.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Have you been saved?</li><li>2. Are you a sinner?</li></ol> <p>Most Christians will answer "Yes" to both of these questions, but are they the correct answers?</p> <p>Let me ask you this, if you are a sinner, from what have you been saved? Jesus came to "Take away the sins of the world" (John 1:29). So if your sins have been taken away, how can you be a sinner?</p>
Luke 11:52	<p>In my brief example above you will I hope see that knowledge would easily answer these two questions correctly and that knowledge is based on the truth of the New Covenant. But unfortunately there are many who teach that you ARE still a sinner and you are still bound under sin and under the Old Testament law. The problem with those who teach this is the same problem Jesus upbraided the lawyers for in their teaching. He said,</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge; you did not enter yourselves, and you hindered those who were entering."</i></p> <p>By their false teaching, lies and half-truths, these teachers prevented the people from finding the knowledge of the truth. The key of knowledge is not in keeping laws but is in seeking the truth of God in Jesus Christ. The truth comes through approaching God in faith, not in following a set of laws, commandments and ordinances. The truth of the knowledge of Jesus Christ is about transformation of your life to live as He lived,</p>

	<p>not in trying to be something because you don't want to get in trouble.</p>
1 Cor 8:1-3	<p>Those lawyers, just as there are some pastors and teachers today (not all) had some knowledge, but in their knowledge they became proud. They saw themselves as better than others and they were puffed up and conceited, seeing themselves as the founts of wisdom and that others should come to them for insight, rather than seeking God. Paul said,</p> <p><i>"1...all of us possess knowledge." "Knowledge" puffs up, but love builds up. 2 If any one imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. 3 But if one loves God, one is known by him."</i></p> <p>When people use the knowledge given to them by God for selfish rather than selfless purposes, they fall into this trap. If God has given you knowledge, then pass it on! Don't hang onto it like a miser and don't think you are better than someone else because you have been blessed in this way. The Lord gives us knowledge so that we can learn and it is good to give it to others who have not yet learned this thing for their benefit. And you will find as you do this, without barriers or pretence, the Lord will give you more.</p> <p>Don't allow yourself to be puffed up by knowledge, but use that knowledge in love to share it, so that you will be doing the will of God.</p>
1 Cor 13:8	<p>It is important that we find the love of God and use whatever knowledge we have to help others also. That is the love of God, loving another as we love ourselves and doing unto others as we would wish they do unto us.</p> <p>Why is this so important? Because in the end the knowledge we have is not perfect and it will pass away. It will disappear because when the Lord makes his home with us, we will not need to know about Him because we will be WITH him and can ask anything we like. Paul shows,</p> <p><i>"...as for knowledge, it will pass away. For our knowledge is imperfect..."</i></p>

	<p>Our knowledge of the Lord is not yet perfect for when it is perfect we too shall be perfect because we will be transformed into his image. It is the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in us to do this transformation, but until that time we must learn and grow in the knowledge of the Lord.</p>
Eph 3:19	<p>And to emphasis this last point, the scripture shows in many places that love is greater tan knowledge for it is the only thing that endures. Love endures because God is love and He endures unto eternity. Paul looked forward to the time when this would be achieved saying...</p> <p><i>“...and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fulness of God.”</i></p> <p>The love of Christ is greater than knowledge for it SURPASSES knowledge. But you will never find the truth of the love of Christ without knowledge. Seek it and desire it as if your life depended on it because the truth of the matter is...it does.</p>
So what next?	<p>This is a brief discussion and introduction into this teaching about knowledge. Much more can be added, but I hope in this introduction you will continue the search for the knowledge of the truth in the Lord Jesus Christ. Please feel free to send me any comments or things you have learned in your own studies or as a result of this information.</p> <p>So now it's your turn. What would you like to add to this conversation? Send me an email (link below) or engage with me on Twitter (@JohnBLemmon) or send me a comment on Facebook at <a href="http://www.facebook.com/FreeGiftFromGod">http://www.facebook.com/FreeGiftFromGod</a> and let's have the discussion continue.</p> <p>Feel free also to send this to others so they can join the conversation. I hope this has added value to your own walk with Christ.</p>

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