

Putting Things In Perspective

Knowledge of God

2 Peter 1:1 Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: 2 May grace and peace be multiplied to you **in the knowledge of God** and of Jesus our Lord. 3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, **through the knowledge of him** who called us to his own glory and excellence, 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. 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. 8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. 10 Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. 11 For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

All of these promises hinge on the “_____ of God.”

- Grace and Peace have been multiplied “in the _____ of God”
- All things have been granted to us “through the _____ of Him (God)”

And we must “add knowledge” as well as all the other attributes so that we will not “be (being) ineffective or unfruitful in the _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Throughout the Word of God, _____ of God, is held in high regard and expectation.

Hosea 4:1 Hear the word of the Lord, O children of Israel, for the Lord has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land. There is no faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land;

Hosea 6:6 For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the _____ of God rather than burnt offerings.

Romans 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

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

The recognition of _____ in your life and your daily dealings.

Fully discerning God's hand and plan in your life and ways.

Acknowledging His _____ and leadership in your life.

Understanding Him in His dealings with you. (Not only what He's doing, but also how and why.)

Psalm 103: 6 The Lord works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. 7 He made known his ways to Moses his acts to the people of Israel.

The people of Israel could see _____ doing things, but Moses was shown His ways. Why and How.

This separation was not because _____ wanted to hide His ways from them. It was because of the hardness of their hearts when the people said “

Deuteronomy 5: 24 And you said, 'Behold, the Lord our God has shown us his glory and greatness, and we have heard his voice out of the midst of the fire. This day we have seen God speak with man, and man still live.

25 Now therefore why should we die? For this great fire will consume us. If we hear the voice of the Lord our God any more, we shall die. 26 For who is there of all flesh, that has heard the voice of the living God speaking out of the midst of fire as we have, and has still lived? 27 Go near and hear all that the Lord our God will say, and speak to us all that the Lord our God will speak to you, and we will hear and do it.'

This same separation was happening when Jesus spoke in parables.

Matthew 13: 10 Then the disciples came and said to him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" 11 And he answered them, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. 12 For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. 13 This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

Truly knowing God is not just recognizing that He is doing something but understanding how and why He is doing it. This takes revelation from the Word of God by the Spirit of God.

This kind of understanding does not happen casually, it is cultivated by being in the Word,

- _____ it
- _____ on it
 - Thinking deeply about it
 - Applying it to your life

And it is cultivated through extended times of fellowship with Him

- How much can you know about an _____ being?

Romans 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!34 "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?"

- How long would it take to know and understand an _____ being?
- If you will not fully know and understand God, why even start?
- What is the goal then in seeking to _____ God?

*2 Peter 3: 13 But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 14 Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to **be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.** 15 And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, 16 as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them **that are hard to understand**, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. 17 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that **you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability.** 18 **But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.** To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.*

Growing in your _____ of Him will prepare you in the short term to be successful in the long.

- It will help you to “be found by him without spot or blemish”
- “and at peace.”
- It will help you to work through those things “that are hard to understand”
- You won’t be “carried away with the error of lawless people”
- “and lose your own stability”

This is an ever-increasing _____ ... it’s time to get started.

What are some aids to begin this _____?

- Find a Bible Reading program
 - Daily time
 - Daily Goals
 - _____ by the Holy Spirit
- Find a Bible Memorization program
 - _____ by the Holy Spirit
- Practice the Presence of God
 - Prayer
 - Biblical Meditation
 - _____ by the Holy Spirit
- Obedience to whatever the Holy Spirit shows you during this time. (Discipleship)
- Service to others
 - Within the Body of Christ
 - Outside the Body of Christ
 - _____ by the Holy Spirit

Did I mention being _____ by the Holy Spirit?

The _____ of the Lord is also essential in preparing to deal with other areas of life.

2 Corinthians 10: 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. 5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

- The _____ of God is worth protecting so that we will know our rights and responsibilities in God's Kingdom

*Ephesians 4: 11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 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, 14 so that we **may no longer be children**, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by **every wind of doctrine**, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to **grow up** in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body **grow** so that it builds itself up in love.*

- The _____ of God helps us not stay "spiritual infants"
- It keeps us from being tossed to and fro ... "by every wind of doctrine"
- It helps us to "grow up"
- and helps the Body of Christ to "Grow"
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*Colossians 2:1 For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, 2 that their **hearts may be encouraged**, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of **full assurance of understanding** and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

- It helps our "hearts to be _____ and knit together"
- It helps us reach a "full _____ of understanding"