

“The Building Block of Knowledge” II Peter 1:3-9

Open: *A look at what the Bible says about knowledge.*

- **Knowledge** = Being acquainted with stated facts, truths, or principles that have been gained by experience or report. The truest form of the word “knowledge” is derived from the word intimate.
- **The Bible tells us that those without knowledge, or those who reject the knowledge of God, will find their lives being destroyed.** **Hosea 4:6** *“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.”*
- The Bible warns us to avoid living a Christian life that is empty because it is based solely on facts and not faith. **II Tim. 3:4-7** *“Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; [5] Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. [6] For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, [7] Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.”*
- The Bible tells us that knowledge cannot be gained until there is a respect for God. **Prov. 1:7** *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”*
- **“We need to recognize that just because we will never understand God completely [Is. 55:8-9] does not meant that God does not want us to be knowledgeable of Him or of how and why He does what He does.”**
 - If God did not want us to understand Him or why He does what He does then He would not give us the Bible to read. He does not want the knowledge we have not acquired to stop us from acting on the knowledge that we already have.
 - God wants us to, by faith, obey what we do know and He will teach us what we need to know; but do not know. Conflict in the Christian life comes when an individual seeks for knowledge that God has not deemed necessary for us to possess.

I. **The Building Block of Knowledge.**

A. Knowledge – The state of knowing something to be true or a proven fact.

- **Rom. 12:2** *“And be not conformed to this world (Faith): but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind (virtue), that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God (Knowledge).”*
- i. Faith says – I don't see how this will work out the way it should, but I'm going to believe it will work out as it should because God said it would.
- ii. Virtue says – I still don't understand why, but because I have faith in God, I'll live on the outside what I believe, by faith, on the inside.
- iii. Knowledge says – Because you obeyed by faith and obeyed what you did not understand, through your trial of faith you will gain knowledge. You have proven that God's way is better than man's way.
 1. Worldly philosophy *“I will explore every option to find the best one.”*
 2. Bible wisdom *“I will trust that God already knows what the best option is, so I will by faith do what God has told me is best.”*

B. Knowledge comes by having faith and virtue.

i. **ILL: A Child learning to read.**

1. They do not understand all the vowels, consonants, and letters, but as they, by faith, do the drills the teacher assigns, they gain virtue.
2. They begin to transform from their former state of inability to read to their ability to read.
3. Only once they have trusted, by faith, the teacher and began to transform their mind do they gain the knowledge of how to read.
 - It would be foolish for a 3 year old to say, "I don't know how to read, so until you make me understand how to read, I'm not going to try to learn how to read."

ii. A child of God's actions and reasonings are often just as foolish. They expect for God to open up their brain and turn on the light bulb. The truth is, even if God did turn on the light bulb, most would still not understand. We gain knowledge by acting on faith, and growing in virtue.

1. A lost person does not understand spiritual truths because they have misplaced their faith.
2. A baby Christian does not understand the things of God, because they learning how to step out by faith and allow God to transform them into their new nature.
3. A growing Christian may not understand everything about the Bible, but because of his past experience he has learned to obey and follow what God says, because he has proven that God's methods are best.

II. **Three categories of people based on an individual's response to Bible instruction.**

i. **A wise person.**

- **Prov. 9:9-10** "Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning. [10] The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding."
- **Prov. 24:3-5** "Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established: [4] And by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches. [5] A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength."

1. A wise person is not wise because he's smart. He is wise because he has learned to obey by faith until he gains the knowledge he is seeking.
2. **This is the Christian who has been taught the Bible and chooses to obey, whether or not he completely understands.**

ii. A simple person.

- **Prov. 8:5** "O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart."

1. A simple person is not ignorant because he has a lack of knowledge, he is simple because he has chosen to remain ignorant [unlearned] to the things of God.
2. It is not wrong to be simple, but it is wrong to stay simple. Everyone is simple at some point in their life; but all should move on from being simple. **Ps. 19:7** "The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple."

iii. **A foolish person.**

- **Prov. 9:6** "Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding."
- **Prov. 10:8** "The wise in heart will receive commandments: but a prating fool shall fall."
- **Prov. 12:15** "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise."

1. A foolish person is one who has been taught the truth, but willfully rejects it.
2. **A foolish person is that Christian who has been instructed to live by faith, but seeks to gain knowledge his own way.**

III. **God's instruction to His children regarding carnal knowledge.**

- i. There are things about which God does not want His children to be knowledgeable.
 1. God wanted to protect His crowning creation from the pain and consequences of sin.
Gen 2:17 "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."
 2. God does not want us to expose ourselves to things that will create desires that will lead us away from Him. **Rom. 16:19** "For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil."
- ii. It is not good enough to just be simple to evil, you must become wise through the learning of the good things of life.
 1. Something will fill your mind. **Rom. 8:6-7** "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. [7] Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. "
 2. A Christian who is ignorant of the teaching's of God's Word is a Christian who will get wrapped up in man's philosophy, and perish spiritually in confusion. **Col. 2:7-8** "Rooted and built up in him, and **stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught...** [8] Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."

Close:

- Don't be ignorant of Satan's devices.
- Don't pump your head full off evil things.
- Don't be tricked into the thinking that because you don't understand it you don't have to obey it.

Prov. 12:15

"The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise."

"Review Questions"

1. What does the Bible tell us will happen to those who reject knowledge? = **They will be destroyed.**
2. According to **Is. 55:8-9**, Does God want us to understand Him? = **Yes.**
3. What does the Bible call a person who has been taught and chooses to obey whether or not he completely understands? = **A wise person.**
4. What does the Bible call a person who has been instructed to live by faith, but seeks to gain knowledge his own way = **A foolish person.**
5. According to **Rom. 16:19**, God wants us to be wise concerning **good**, and **simple** concerning evil.