

INTRODUCTION: This study will focus on the next characteristic found in 2 Peter 1:5-7, *knowledge*. The word used for knowledge here, in the original language (Greek) is *gnosis*. This type of knowledge implies a knowledge that leads to enlightened judgement (wisdom), spiritual discernment or knowledge that is practical...as opposed to useless.

1. What type of knowledge does the society in which we live desire us to have?
2. Why do you think it's important to have spiritual knowledge that leads to discernment and enlightened or informed judgement? See 2 Peter 1:3-4
3. We have too much information in today's world. Do you agree or disagree with this statement and why?
4. READ: 2 Peter 5:7 and Romans 15:14
Why do you think that developing *goodness* (pure godly motives) is a stepping stone to acquiring knowledge?
5. What is your understanding of the following statement?
WHEN YOUR MOTIVES ARE PURE YOUR KNOWLEDGE HEALS
WHEN YOUR MOTIVES ARE CORRUPT YOUR KNOWLEDGE WOUNDS
6. READ: 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Proverbs 29:1; Proverbs 15:32
 - a. How would you explain that the key to growing in knowledge is found in an attitude of humility?
 - b. Thinking back on the verses you just read how could having an attitude of humility be defined as being a person who is *teachable*?
 - c. How would you describe someone who is *not* teachable and someone who *is* teachable? What attributes or character traits would you see in each of these people?
7. Explain how the following verse of scripture relates to having a "teachable spirit."
Matthew 18:4 King James Version (KJV)
4 Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.
8. Why do you think so few people who profess to be Christ followers ever read their bible or engage in discussions of a spiritual nature?

9. How would you explain to a “Christian” that it is impossible to grow in Christ-like character without a comprehensive knowledge of the word of God, the bible?
10. How does understanding scripture contribute to your spiritual maturity?
11. What could you do as a group to support each other in the disciplined reading and study of God's word?

FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

RATE YOURSELF. WHICH CHARACTERISTICS MOST APPLY TO YOU!

YOU...

- Rarely read your bible, take time to pray, take notes, read books, or learn anything unless it's the bare minimum or what's essential for exam purposes.
- Don't ask questions or attempt anything that might reveal your ignorance or risk you looking stupid.
- Don't accept responsibility for your failures but blame anyone and everyone else.
- Don't seek or accept one-to-one personal guidance or mentoring from parents, teachers, pastors, elders, etc.
- Don't listen, but talk, talk, talk about yourself, especially when you're with someone you could learn a lot from.
- Don't take criticism or correction without resentment or retaliation.
- Resist moving out of personal comfort zones in work, study, ministry, or relationships, but always look for the easy and familiar route.
- Don't read, listen to, or learn anything that challenges existing presuppositions, practices, and prejudices.
- Are aware of the limitations of your own knowledge and abilities.
- Admit limitation, inability, and ignorance to others who can teach and help.
- Regularly ask for help, instruction, guidance, and advice (before the event, not after disaster strikes).
- Learn from anyone and everyone you can
- Listen to others carefully and patiently with a desire to learn from everyone.
- Are prepared to move out of your comfort zone, try something different, make mistakes, look stupid, answer wrongly, etc.
- Don't give up when you fail at something, but seek help, and try again and again until you get it right.
- Are willing to change your views and practices when convincing evidence is presented to you, even if it means admitting you were wrong. –Kevin Halloren

What practical steps could you take to ensure that you are open to being taught from God's word and have an attitude of humility towards learning and growing?

**THE FIRSTSTEP IN GETTING TO WHERE GOD CALLED YOU TO GO
IS TO DECIDE NOT TO STAY WHERE YOU ARE...**Tamara Lowe