

Home Group Notes
Week of January 28, 2024
2 Peter 1: "You CAN Have it All" week #4 - Knowledge



HOW THE WORLD SEES HIM

Pastor Bill Born said, "We don't get to make up God." Many in the world like to make up God in their own way. What are some things that the world has said about God that are not true? What are things that you perhaps thought before you knew Him?

ADD "KNOWLEDGE"

In the letter of 2 Peter, the author has called us to something supernatural, amazing, even awesome.

"³His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.⁴ Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature. . . .¹⁰ For if you do these things, you will never stumble,¹¹ and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

These are amazing promises from our glorious God! We are in a series about God's process for this to happen. Peter tells us, in verses 3-11, that through "His divine power" and "through knowledge of Him," God makes this happen. Peter also makes it clear that we have a part:

"⁵make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge"

"⁸ For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure . . . "

"¹⁰make every effort" . . . For if you do these things . . . "

Each week we are going to examine one quality that Peter tells to add so that we might "participate in the divine nature," become more like Jesus Christ in our qualities and actions. Our focus this week is on the role of "knowledge" in God's process. Peter is using a Greek word that means "intimate knowledge" or "knowledge from experience." (It is different from another Greek word that means "knowledge from observation or research.")

Read the following passages from 2 Peter that include the word "knowledge" and note the results.

1:2

1:3

1:5

1:8

2:20

3:18

As you consider this call to add **knowledge**, it is important to understand that for many centuries, few people owned a copy of the Scriptures. Yet, the Holy Spirit, working through the community of faith, always increased intimate knowledge of God. Here is a brief history of how **knowledge** of Jesus comes to us:

- 1) God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) has revealed himself in creation, in our conscience, in our rational minds, through His prophets and other ways.
- 2) Jesus revealed himself to people and those eyewitnesses spread the good news through testimony, instruction, writing the New Testament (and then copies were made by scribes), and through gatherings for worship. Throughout history, God the Holy Spirit has illuminated the truth of God that we might know Him.
- 3) The community of faith has always made Jesus known. This happens in relationships, churches, written communication, and sharing of Jesus teachings. This was the primary way until the printing press (1450s), when the Bible was first mass produced. In the 1500s, the Bible was translated into Latin/Greek, German, and English. King James translation happened in 1611, and many more translations came after this. This allowed the common person to own a copy of God's revealed words.

DISCUSS TOGETHER

How can we follow Peter's call to "make every effort" to add "intimate knowledge" of God?

What is the role of church gatherings, worship, testimony, and instruction in growth of knowledge of God?

What helps you grow in your intimate knowledge of God?

APPLY IT THIS WEEK

God wants us to know Him. Peter says that we need to make every effort to keep adding intimate knowledge of God. This goes beyond information to transformation. What does this exhortation mean for you? Is there a step of application that God is inviting you to take?

PRAY TOGETHER

- Please keep praying for our educators to be encouraged and enduring as they face societal changes and demands, pressures, and cuts
- Please pray for our Search Team and Elders as they pray and proceed in the process of vetting Senior Pastor candidates
- Please pray for Fuente de Vida as they move forward with reaching the Spanish speaking community