

KNOWLEDGE

2 PETER 1:5

Text:

Introduction:

Remember in verse 5 we are told that we are to add to our faith.... "giving all diligence". That means giving our best effort to accomplish spiritual growth.

If we are to grow spiritually then we must habitually practice spiritual diligence.

Virtue refers to the courageous pursuit of moral excellence.

Remember... we learned that Virtue is an ATTITUDE that we must have, and an ACTION that we must take.

Internally, we desire to what is right. Outwardly, we demonstrate what is right. Virtue is being holy in an unholy world.

Notice that Peter goes on in verse 5 to tell us that having a desire to do what is right is essential to adding to our faith, but desire alone is not enough.

Therefore Peter instructs us to "add.... knowledge" to virtue.

By "knowledge" Peter is referring to the investigation and comprehension of spiritual truth. He is saying that we need to add to virtue, a concentrated effort of learning spiritual truth.

The source of true spiritual truth is the Word of God.

2 Timothy 3:16

¹⁶ All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

Doctrine: What is right.

Reproof: What is wrong.

Correction: How to get right.

Instruction in Righteousness: How to stay right.

If we want to grow spiritually, then we must become students who will.... Learn, Love, and Live... God's precious Word.

There are not short cuts to spiritual growth. To grow spiritually demands a diligent effort on your part to learn spiritual truth from the Word of God.

So, we are to add "knowledge"... add spiritual truth to our lives... how does that help us?

1. IT HELPS US KNOW RIGHT FROM WRONG

Some say, well... everybody knows right from wrong. I wish that were true.

We live in a day that is very similar to a time in the Old Testament.

Judges 21:25

²⁵ In those days *there was* no king in Israel: every man did *that which was* right in his own eyes.

Isaiah 5:20

²⁰ Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

If we are going to know what is right, we had better look to the Word of God.

Hebrews 5:14

¹⁴ But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

2. IT HELPS US WIN SPIRITUAL BATTLES

The Christian life is a battle ground. If we are to grow then we must have victory over temptation and sin.

Jesus was tempted... (Matthew 4)... and in each case, do you remember what Jesus did to counteract the temptation?

Matthew 4:1-11

¹ Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. ² And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. ³ And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. ⁴ But he answered and said, **It is written**, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. ⁵ Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in *their* hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. ⁷ Jesus said unto him, **It is written** again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. ⁸ Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; ⁹ And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. ¹⁰ Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: **for it is written**, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. ¹¹ Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

3. IT WILL HELP US KNOW THE SAVIOR

Peter's burden was to see his readers grow strong in their faith. Look at the final verse of this letter. He underscores the message of this book.

2 Peter 3:18

¹⁸ **But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and**

Saviour Jesus Christ. To him *be* glory both now and for ever.

Amen.

Paul had the same desire.

1 Corinthians 2:2

²For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

Philippians 3:8

⁸Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them *but* dung, that I may win Christ,

Close:

1 Timothy 2:1-4

¹I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men; ²For kings, and *for* all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. ³For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; ⁴Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.