

THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

Definition

The Greek word used in 2 Peter 1:2 for knowledge is “epignosis.” This word is much more than just factual knowledge. It gives the idea of “first hand knowledge, contact-knowledge, and experiential knowledge.” This knowledge comes from a first hand relationship with someone (when applied to knowing an individual).

Importance of this Knowledge

The structure of the Greek for 2 Peter 1:2 literally translated reads, “Grace to you and peace be multiplied **IN** the knowledge of God and of Jesus the Lord of us.” Grace and Peace are literally found **IN** the knowledge of God. If we want to have grace and peace we need to have first hand, contact, experiential knowledge of God and Jesus. This comes from a daily relationship where we actually watch and experience the working of God in our lives.

What does this look like?

Recognize Him.

Life is not lived by chance but by the direction of God (Philippians 2:13).

Include Him.

Remember God is with us all the time, so include Him in every thought (Romans 1:28-32).

Follow Him.

Take the path that He opens up for us rather than going in the direction we want (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Acknowledge Him.

Give Him thanks for the good and ask what He is trying to teach us in the difficulty (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Give credit to Him.

Realize that all that we have and are able to do is because of His ability and working in our lives not our own ability. Without Him we can do nothing (John 15:5). With Him we can do and handle all things (Philippians 4:13).

Depend on Him.

Trust Him to do what we cannot do or we think impossible, if it is His will (Matthew 19:26).

Involve Him.

Think through what God would do or want us to do in every situation and decision (Psalm 119:97-99).

Consult with Him.

Pray about everything (Philippians 4:6-7).

Act like Him.

Adjust our life to act like Him (Romans 8:28-29).

Four Important Facts about the Knowledge of God

1. Grace and Peace come through the knowledge of God – 2 Peter 1:2
2. Everything we need comes through the knowledge of God – 2 Peter 1:3
3. One's knowledge of God should continue to grow – 2 Peter 1:5 (Colossians 1:10)
4. One can have a knowledge of God and still be ineffective and unproductive – 2 Peter 1:8

We will now focus the rest of our study on understanding more fully these four important facts about the knowledge of God.