

## 4: Knowledge (2 Peter 1:5)

Second Peter 1:5c says, "A life of moral excellence leads to knowing God better."

Share a time you gained knowledge but failed to apply the virtue(s) learned. How does knowledge come alongside moral excellence to attest to your faith?

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Knowledge, as it is listed in 2 Peter 1:5, suggests a comprehension of God that is continually growing as we study about, experience, and apply effort in our relationship with Him. How has your knowledge of God increased through your experiences and efforts?

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Read Proverbs 9:10. The Hebrew word for "wisdom" means skill in life, trade, war, or spiritual things. Likewise, "understanding" means insight or discernment; usually referring to the wisdom that responds to the Lord and His instruction.

Read Proverbs 2:1-22. In verses 1-4, how are you responsible for growing in the knowledge of God? \_\_\_\_\_

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What does the Lord promise to those who seek Him?

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How does a lack of wisdom result in following the ways of the wicked?

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Read 1 Corinthians 3:18-21. Discuss the difference between godly knowledge and worldly knowledge. Is moral excellence possible without godly knowledge?

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Hosea 14:9 says, "Let those who are wise understand these things. Let those who are discerning listen carefully. The paths of the Lord are true and right, and righteous people live by walking in them. But sinners stumble and fall along the way."

## Vain Knowledge

Read James 3:13-18. How do your actions reflect your understanding of godly wisdom? \_\_\_\_\_  
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Define wisdom as it is listed in this passage. How wise are you?  
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In 1 Kings 3:9, Solomon asks the Lord for an understanding mind so that he may govern God's people well and know the difference between right and wrong. Read James 1:5. Does the Lord delight in your asking for knowledge as well? \_\_\_\_\_  
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Read 1 Kings 11:3. Solomon failed to exercise discernment in one area of his life. How did this one area lead to his downfall?  
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Let's look at the chain reaction:

- Solomon did not exercise self-control.
- He did not apply the knowledge he had been given.
- He did not practice moral excellence.

How did this affect his faith? \_\_\_\_\_  
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How important is it that we "**respond** to the Lord and His instruction?"  
What is knowledge without application?  
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Read Jeremiah 8:8-9.

## Applied Knowledge

Read Philipians 1:9-11.

Colossians 1:9b-10 says, "*We ask God to give you a complete understanding of what he wants to do in your lives, and we ask him to make you wise with spiritual wisdom. Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and you will continually do good, kind things for others. All the while, you will learn to know God better and better.*"

Matthew 13:23 says, "*But he who **received** seed on the good ground is he who **hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces***" (NKJV, emphasis mine).

In closing, read Colossians 2:3.

*Add to Your Faith: Knowledge*

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