

For If Ye Do These Things Ye Shall Never Fall

(Part 5)

I. Introduction:

A. We are talking about building ourselves up and we are focusing on doing it properly so that we do not fall (**Luke 6:47-49**).

1. Our groundwork is faith (**Romans 1:16-17**).

2. We have discussed adding to that virtue, which includes strength, excellence, and God-glorifying morality (**Proverbs 10:9; 11:3; 24:5**).

B. As we begin to discuss our next addition, knowledge, we have to understand that the English word in the context we've read already read (**II Peter 1:2-3**) differs from what we will discuss now (**II Peter 1:5**).

1. The Greek word translated "knowledge" in **verses 2-3** and in **verse 8** "ἐπίγνωσις" [pronounced: epignōsis] means: "recognition, i.e. (by implication) full discernment, acknowledgement: — (ac-)knowledge(-ing, -ment). Precise and correct knowledge. A. used in the NT of the knowledge of things ethical and divine" (Strongs' # 1922).

2. The Greek word translated "knowledge" in verses 5-6 "γνώσις" [pronounced: gnōsis] means: "knowing (the act), i.e. (by implication) knowledge: — knowledge, science. Knowledge signifies in general intelligence, understanding; the general knowledge of Christian religion; the deeper more perfect and enlarged knowledge of this religion, such as belongs to the more advance; desp. of things lawful and unlawful for Christians; moral wisdom, such as is seen in right living" (Strong's #1108).

3. To try and make this easier to understand consider it like this.

a. The first term in verses 2-3; 8 is about knowledge pertaining to God and His word that we have from the very beginning of our conversion (**Colossians 3:10, I Timothy 2:4**, etc.).

b. The term we are going to discuss in this lesson is more about advancing in knowledge to the application of things known about God and His will. Meaning, knowing how to use that knowledge in our daily lives (i.e. **I Peter 3:7**).

II. Body: Add To Virtue Knowledge (**II Peter 1:5**).

A. You're living aright with basic knowledge of right from wrong (**Ephesians 5:10**) and being careful (**Romans 14:23**); but now it's time for a more mature knowledge (**I Corinthians 14:20**).

1. There is a child-like knowledge (**I Corinthians 13:11**).

a. A child knows it's wrong to say certain words because his/her parents have said "that's a bad word". This is the basic do/don't do level of knowledge of right and wrong (**Romans 13:9-10**).

- b. Understanding that there are actions that are lawful in one setting, but not another is a more mature level of knowledge (**I Corinthians 10:23-33**).
2. Then there is that workable knowledge (**Hebrews 5:14**).
3. The knowledge that you don't have at the start, but you grow into through continuation of faithfulness (**John 8:30-32**).
- B. Using knowledge (**Matthew 13:23** and **II Thessalonians 3:4**).
1. With knowledge comes the responsibility of action (**James 4:17**).
2. You must use knowledge aright (**Proverbs 15:2**).
3. You must understand that a proper start doesn't mean an assured finish (**Galatians 5:7-9**).
4. Consider an illustration of using knowledge to act properly:
 - a. A person who is immature in working knowledge reads a passage such as **Ephesians 4:31-32**. They struggle with if that means you have to forgive and never be angry. Someone with a mature knowledge, knows there is a proper anger, a proper way to forgive, and even a time to be sharp (**Mark 3:1-6**, **Luke 17:3-4**, **Titus 1:10-14**, etc.).
 - b. The immature reads **I Peter 3:15** and **Jude 3** and thinks they need to fight away anyone who ever says anything biblically wrong. Mature knowledge understands when to fight and answer and when not to (**Matthew 7:6**, **Galatians 2:1-5**, **II Timothy 2:23**, etc.).
5. You don't want your efforts to be useless (**Matthew 7:21-23**).
- C. There is a difference in mature and immature knowledge (**I Corinthians 8:1-13**). **The Greek word in II Peter 1:5-6 is in verses 1; 7; 10; 11 of this context.*
 1. The strong/weak difference (**Romans 15:1-3**).
 2. Caution though, don't let growing in knowledge become your downfall (**Isaiah 47:10**).
- D. Using knowledge to be morally wise, such as seen in living right in God's sight (**I Thessalonians 4:1-7**).
1. For the sake of emphasis, let's remember knowing something doesn't automatically convert into practicing it (**Romans 1:18-32**).
- a. Solomon (**I Kings 11:1-8**; cf. **I Kings 4:29-34**).
- b. Peter (**Acts 10:1-11:18** and **Galatians 2:11-17**).
2. Learn AND use it (**Luke 11:28**).

III. Conclusion: The knowledge we are talking about, is what we are expected to carefully grow in (**II Peter 3:15-18**).