

# Growing In the Knowledge of the Lord

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from multiple sources)

## Introduction:

### A. 2Peter 1:5-10, 3:17-18

1. Diligence is from *spoude* and it means “speed, dispatch, eagerness, earnestness, earnest care, diligence, forwardness, haste, zeal (Strong’s)”
2. To grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ requires considerable effort
3. We do not accidentally or naturally develop these qualities
4. Illustration: In his book *Folk Psalms of Faith*, Ray Stedman tells a story of a woman who had been a school teacher for 25 years. When she heard about a job that would mean a promotion, she applied for the position. However, someone who had been teaching for only one year was hired instead. She went to the principal and asked why. The principal responded, “I’m sorry, but you haven’t had 25 years of experience as you claim; you’ve had only one year’s experience 25 times.” Throughout her entire career, she had not improved.
5. We may have been Christians for a number of years. But unless we continue to grow, we are simply repeating our first year over again

## I. WHY SHOULD WE GROW IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD?

### A. Failure to grow in the knowledge of the Lord results in spiritual myopia and amnesia - 2Peter 1:9

1. What is the primary objective of being a Christian in this world?
  - a. To be forgiven? To go to heaven?
  - b. To become like Christ - Rom. 8:29; Col. 3:9-10
  - c. This is what is meant by growing in the knowledge of Christ; it is far more than the simple view that it just means **learning more about** Jesus. It is **being more like** Jesus
2. Failure to grow indicates that we have forgotten why we were saved in the first place

### B. We will never stumble - 2Peter 1:10

1. This does not mean we will never sin - 1John 1:8-10
2. Stumble is *ptaio* and means “to fall into misery, become wretched; to lose one’s salvation” (Thayer). “To trip, to err, sin, to fail of salvation, fall, offend, stumble” (Strong’s)
3. We will never stumble so completely as to fall short of our eternal salvation, not our current state of being saved

### C. Entrance into the everlasting kingdom will be supplied - 2Peter 1:11

1. The everlasting kingdom is the heavenly kingdom of 2Tim. 4:18
2. What is meant by an abundant entrance?
  - a. “You may be able to enter, not as having escaped from a shipwreck, or from fire, but as it were in triumph.” (Bengel)
  - b. We will live victoriously in this life and joyously anticipate what is ahead - 2Tim. 4:6-8

## II. HOW DO WE OBTAIN THE GLORY OF OUR LORD?

### A. 2Thes. 2:13-14, 1:11-12

1. It is troubling that so many disciples do not understand that we do so much more than merely point toward the glory of God. It is important to understand that as we conform to the image of the Lord, we reflect His glory in our own lives.
2. Jesus said so - Matt. 5:14, 16
3. Failing to understand this facilitates the attitude that is willing to let God glorify Himself and to absolve ourselves of responsibility

### B. We obtain this glory by:

1. Being chosen - Eph. 1:4-5; 2Thes. 2:13
  - a. By being set apart by the Spirit - 2Thes. 2:13; Titus 3:5
  - b. By faith - 2Thes. 2:13, 1:10
  - c. By the gospel - 2Thes. 2:14
  - d. When the Gospel, revealed by the Holy Spirit to set us apart from our sins, was believed by hearers who responded to the call by obeying it, they were saved from their sins and returned to the state of glory Adam had before he sinned
2. Standing fast - 1Cor. 15:58; Phil 4:1
  - a. Hold the apostles' teaching - 2Thes. 2:15; Acts 2:42; 1Cor. 11:2
  - b. Cherish the comfort of God's love and grace - 2Thes. 2:16-17
    - 1) It equals or exceeds our suffering - 2Cor. 1:3-5
    - 2) It is enough to keep us stable in the Lord - 1Peter 5:10
  - c. "Even in our sleep, pain which cannot forget falls drop by drop upon the heart until, in our own despair, and against our will, comes wisdom through the awesome grace of God." (Aeschylus, 524 BC)
  - d. Our steadfastness under trial and temptation is prima fascia evidence that we have grown in our knowledge of the Lord, that we are growing into the image of God, and in so doing, that we are showing His glory in our lives
  - e. 1Peter 4:12-13, 16