

Knowledge & Self-Control

We're exploring **2 Peter 1**, where we introduced last Wednesday what we've called "**God's Vitamin Cabinet.**"

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to

_____ and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. For this very reason, make every effort to _____ your faith with virtue, and virtue with _____, and knowledge with self-_____... (2 Pet 1:3-6)

Let's start with **knowledge**. For some reason, the apostle Peter is convinced that the right sort of knowledge can have a profound impact on our lives. Just listen to how his letter began:

May _____ and peace be multiplied to you in the **knowledge** of _____ and of Jesus our Lord. (2 Pet 1:2)

Listen again, carefully, to the next verse and notice the difference knowledge can make:

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, _____ the **knowledge** of him who called us to his own glory and excellence... (2 Pet 1:3)

Knowledge is even highlighted at the very end of Peter's letter:

But _____ in the grace and **knowledge** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. (2 Pet 3:18)

Why is knowledge so vital to our spiritual growth? We'll explore that together in just a moment. But before we do, we were also called to "supplement" our knowledge with **self-control**. What's that? We'll dig into it together, but notice as a starting point:

After some days Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, and he sent for Paul and heard him speak about _____ in Christ Jesus. And as he reasoned about righteousness and _____-**control** and the coming judgment... (Acts 24:24-25)

That sounds a whole lot like what we've already been introduced to in **2 Peter 1**, doesn't it? These are qualities that are absolutely essential for spiritual growth. **Let's talk about them!**



For Class & Family Discussion:

- In your own words, what is **knowledge**?
- If faith is the foundation of our spiritual growth and development, of all the things we could “add to” our faith, why do you think the Holy Spirit mentions “**virtue**” followed by “**knowledge**”? Is there a logical flow to this order?
- What sort of things do I need to grow to “**know**” as a disciple of Jesus?
- How, practically speaking, can “**grace and peace be multiplied**” to me “**in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord**” (2 Pet 1:2)? What’s the connection here between multiplied “**grace and peace**” and “**the knowledge of God and of Jesus**”?
- In everyday terms, *how* can I “**grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**” (2 Pet 3:18)? Is it really that important?
- What about **self-control**? How would you describe it in your own words?
- Why do you think self-control is what follows knowledge in our 2 Peter 1 passage?
- Why is self-control absolutely essential to a healthy, growing relationship with God?

Next Wednesday...

We'll focus in on and discuss the supplements of **steadfastness** and **godliness**.