

the Knowledge of God. That to know God is to experience the greatest personal relation that man can have.

I. EXPLANATION: - Chapter 1

THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST		
a.)	That Knowledge is Gift from God (faith)	1:1-4
b.)	That Knowledge (faith) is to experience Growth	1:5-11
c.)	That our Knowledge (faith) is to be Grounded	1:12-21

Last Time:

A Faith that gives life

2 Peter 1:3a

as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us...

FAITH MAKES '1' GREAT ASSUMPTION...

and that is that your faith is in an object or person that is far greater than who you are yourself.

**True Christian Faith is anchored on the facts
"Our Faith Founded Upon Facts"**

**Have you noticed that life plays hard ball,
at full speed, all the time**

John 10:10

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

If there is any joy, any peace, any comfort, any purpose to living that is meaningful - it's found in knowing God personally

James Spoke about the Assurance and Stability of God

James 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

And So...

The More Knowledge you have of God, the easier it is
to have faith in God

Who are you Trusting in this Life ?

“FAITH THAT GROWS UP”

Just as a child is born and begins to grow, you will see signs of development
you can always tell...

#1 - Sight

A child first makes eye contact. The color, the size, the shape

#2 - Touch

The vision is then heightened by the experience of introduction. The introduction to texture and composition.
is it soft or hard, is it rough or smooth

#3 - Possession

It is acquired and made their own. They begin to name the toy or talk to it, or it becomes there friend - by
familiarity

#4 - Sharing

The object is then shared with others in confidence that it is truly yours and good and that your friends need
to experience what you have

In A Real Way - Faith in God is much like that

#1 - There is that first contact {Sight} Who God is. With your eyes you begin to see...

#2 - You sense the nature of God {Touch} How He is...

#3 - Is {Possession}. You decide to make Him your Personal Lord & Savior

#4 - The natural outflow is to {Share} with others the joy and life and meaning

"FAITH THAT GROWS UP"

1.) Faith is to Grow Up Healthy

vv. 5-7

the development of the 'divine nature'

The Development of Faith

Romans 10:17

...faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Verse 5-7

*But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith **virtue**, to virtue **knowledge**, to knowledge **self-control**, to self-control **perseverance**, to perseverance **godliness**, to godliness **brotherly kindness**, and to brotherly kindness **love**.*

Verse 5a

(the) for this very reason

Pulls us back to verses 3 & 4

*That we have all **power** available to live this life thru to the end vv. 3*

*And that we have been given **great precious promises** form God vv. 4*

- * **Great GRK 3176 megistos (meg'-is-tos)**
a superlative meaning the very greatest. An exceeding great, greatness. Something greater than life (mega!!!)
- * **Precious GRK 5093 timios (tim'-ee-os)**
being of ultimate valuable, of priceless cost, having the highest honor

FAITH IS WHAT SEPARATES CHRISTIANS FROM ALL OTHER PEOPLE OF THE WORLD

Others may have faith - but their faith is fixed upon a sure thing - the right thing

A Healthy Faith is Biblically Based faith

anything less is a defective faith at best
THAT WILL EVENTUALLY LEAD YOU ASTRAY

Verse 5b

Growth will take every bit of Effort and Energy

giving all diligence,

- * **Diligence, GRK 4710 spoude (spoo-day')**
to be "speeding" about. To have an eagerness and urgency

Meaning This:

It will take every bit of effort on our part + the power given to us by God to fight and resist the evil of this age

the recipe for making a;
godly life

Verse 5c

add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,

1a) Growing is a Planned Event

!!!add!!!

the word 'add' here is where we get the English word chorus or choreograph. To orchestrate a movement of music or a theater play

The list of ingredients

1st. Add a cup of

- * **Virtue GRK 703 arete (ar-et'-ay)**
moral excellence or goodness of character. It's the internal thoughts and motives (GOD RECONSTRUCTS THOSE THINGS)

2nd. an ounce of

- * **knowledge** GRK 1108 **gnosis (gno'-sis)**
not intellectual knowledge but the knowledge that leads to the action, a true science.

True Knowledge Must be Mixed with Faith
(this is the Christian experience)

A Serious Warning About Knowledge Alone:

Knowledge (knowl0edge (nÄl2sj) n.

1. Is being in the state or position of knowing and being Familiar with, aware of, or having come to an understanding gained through study.

**That's Not Bad - But Knowledge Left Alone
- Can be Disastrous thing...**

It leads to pride...

What You & I Know Must Be Applied to Life

**It's the doing of what you know
that is humbling to the soul**

2 Timothy 3:7

always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Hebrews 4:1-2

...let us be careful lest any of you seem to have come short of it. ² For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.

3rd. A tablespoon of

- * **Self-control** GRK 1466 **egkrateia (eng-krat'-i-ah)**
having your desires and passions placed under guard before God. Calling on God to help you watch yourself

4th. A half cup of

- * **perseverance** **GRK 5281 hupomone (hoop-om-on-ay')**
cheerful hopeful endurance, a deep constancy a
patient continuance (in a hostile setting - latter days)

Romans 15:4

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

The Never Giving Up ~ Or Giving In

Sense the Urgency and Pleading of Peter Here

It's Exactly what Jesus meant when He said;

Matthew 24:13

"But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

1 Peter 1:13

Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on **the grace** to be given you - when Jesus Christ appears.

Psalm 37:23-24

The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the LORD upholds him with His hand.

Christian - Don't Give Up, Don't Stop Doing What is Right, Don't give in to the Pressures of the World - Hang in there - the end is near (the beginning)

Romans 5:1-5

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; ⁴ and perseverance, character; and character, hope. (The HOPE here is our Going to Heaven) ⁵ **Now hope does not disappoint**, (why not?) because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

5th. Add a full cup of

* **Godliness** **GRK 2150 eusebeia (yoo-seb'-i-ah)**
GOD-likeness. True piety and holiness. Being clean and pure
it's the "doing what Jesus would do" kinda stuff

----- **wwjd** -----

A pointer - godliness is a lasting attractiveness. It's a result of knowing God

The first '5' qualities are internal

(Regarding ourselves toward god)

The last '2' qualities are external

(Regarding ourselves toward others)

6th. a pinch of

* **Brotherly kindness** **GRK Philadelphia (fil-ad-el-fee'-ah);**
having and showing kindness toward
your fellow Christian

1 John 3:16-17

By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. ¹⁷ But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?

7th. And a bucket of

* **Love** **GRK 26 agape (ag-ah'-pay)**
affection that leads to benevolence;
to determine to provide ALL that is within ones power to bless
another

AGAPE' - THE GREATEST MANIFESTATION OF LOVE

**It's the act of blessing another
without desiring or requiring anything in return**

**It's a selfless love - an undying love
- *an unchanging love***

IT'S, THE LOVE OF GOD

John 3:16

"For God so **loved** the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 11:5

Now Jesus **loved** Martha and her sister and Lazarus.

John 13:1

Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having **loved** His own who were in the world, He **loved** them to the end.

John 17:23

"I am in them, and You Father are in Me; that they may be made complete in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have **loved** them as You have loved Me.

((The Father Loves Jesus, Just as much as He loves Me))

1 John 4:11

Beloved, if God so **loved** us, we also ought to **love** one another.

when you "agape" someone,
you are loving them with a giving love. The love of God has been revealed to us by actions, by doing

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love..... joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control.

Against such there is no law.

The Law, *(the big ten) has to run away in shame in the prescience of love - the fruit of the Holy Spirit*

This is the list of ingredients, what's next?

- Just Add Water

John 7:37

On the last day, that great day of the feast Jesus stood and cried out, saying,
"If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink...."

The Priest would walk over to the Spring Gihon and take a pitcher of cool, clear water and return back to the temple porch. Quietly before everyone he would pour it out the steps, letting it flow down toward the people. This was done to remind them of the water that God provided to the children of Israel through the wilderness years

³⁸ "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." ³⁹
But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive;

And stir well

2 Timothy 1:6a

Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you...

2.) Faith is to Grow Up Productive

vv. 8-9

Verse 8

For if these things are **yours** and **abound**, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

If We...

If we purpose in our hearts to follow Him, then we will pursue these things...
the result is a wonderful, healthy, productive and exciting Christian life

.....THE AWESOMENESS OF FOLLOWING GOD AWAITS US.....

If Not...

Then we will experience the Stunted Spiritual Growth of the Carnal Christian

Verse 9

For he who lacks these things is **shortsighted**, even to **blindness**,
and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

This is written about the backslidden Christian (the carnal believer) the one who Has Forgotten!!!

It is a cooperation -

THE CHRISTIAN **WHO KNOWS** THAT THEY BELONG TO JESUS WILL NEVER STUMBLE (FALL) BUT WILL PROVE BY A CONSISTENT LIFE THAT THEY ARE GOD'S CHILD...

Proverbs 2:1-3

My son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you, ² So that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; ³ Yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding,

Philippians 2:12-13

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling..... **(that sounds pretty defeating) ...**

¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

Verse 11

for so an entrance will be **supplied** to you **abundantly** into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

When Your Life Has Completed its Days and Time Comes is no more...

It's then that Eternity will Begin for you

????? What would like to see & hear ?????

John 17:1-3, 8

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, ² "as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. ³ "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. ⁴ "I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do..... ⁸ For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.

Application & Conclusion:

#1 Take the lists of seven and realize that they are beyond your reach!

#2 Ask the Lord to work them out in your life

#3 Position yourself for growth

The more we do this, the more we take on the nature of Jesus and the more people see Jesus in us...

When Did You Become A Christian?

When were you born (again) through Faith in God?

Has your Faith grown up since you first believed?

I've been a Christian 30 years - so what - do you have 30 years of experience at being a Christian?

**It's Time to Grow Up in the Faith
and life's experiences is the arena where faith grows**