

"...but we have the **mind of Christ.**"  
(1 Corinthians 2:16)

Wow! These few verses should demonstrate the believer's great need to increase knowledge. As noted in 1 Corinthians 2:16 (above), we have the mind of Christ. We have access to all the knowledge that we could ever need. We must add this knowledge to our faith.

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### How Can We Add Knowledge To Our Faith?

"If any of you lack **wisdom**, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." (James 1:5)

One way of gaining knowledge is to ask God for it and diligently seek Him, expecting that He will answer your request. God delights in His children seeking wisdom from Him. God will generously give wisdom to those who want it.

"So that thou incline thine ear unto **wisdom**, and apply thine heart to **understanding**; (3) Yea, if thou criest after **knowledge**, and liftest up thy voice for **understanding**; (4) If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; (5) Then shalt thou **understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.**" (Proverbs 2:2-5)

Another method of gaining knowledge is to earnestly and with commitment seek knowledge. Listening to and reading the Word of God with an intense desire to learn from Him will result in finding knowledge. This search must involve a similar intensity as one

looking for hidden treasure. If you knew there was a billion dollars worth of gold in an acre of land, you would look, dig, and hunt for it everywhere... UNTIL YOU FOUND IT!

Do likewise in your desire for God's wisdom!

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### Conclusion:

"Whoso loveth instruction loveth **knowledge**: but he that hateth reproof is brutish." (Proverbs 12:1)

"These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and **searched the scriptures daily**, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11)

LOVE instruction... but LOVE God and His Word more!

Believers should seek out teachers and their instruction. We should love to learn, but we must also test every teacher against the Word of God. Take notes and search the Scriptures to validate the doctrines being taught.

Receive the teaching with all readiness of mind and test what has been taught against the truth of the Holy Scriptures.

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"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: (4) Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. (5) And beside this, giving all diligence, **add to your faith** virtue; and to virtue **KNOWLEDGE**;" (2 Peter 1:3-5)

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### Add To Your Faith

In part 1 of this series, we discussed what it means to "ADD" to our faith. What does that look like, and how can we accomplish "adding" to our faith?

God's word commands us to diligently add to our faith; therefore, it is possible to do so with the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

## ADD TO FAITH PART 2 - KNOWLEDGE

One powerful method of adding to our faith is through the Word of God.

*"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."* (Romans 10:17)

This part of the series is about adding **KNOWLEDGE** to our faith, and there is no more excellent source of knowledge than the Scriptures!

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### Add KNOWLEDGE

Knowledge is the second item on the list of things to add to our faith.

It should be evident that knowledge is vitally important for believers to possess. We are encouraged to be "wise" like the serpents yet "harmless" as doves.

*"Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves."* (Matthew 10:16)

Knowledge is valuable at any time, but growing in knowledge, wisdom, and understanding is beyond critical in this increasingly ungodly world.

Combined with the VIRTUE as discussed in part 1 of this series, we are now embarking on **VALOROUS KNOWLEDGE**. Spiritual knowledge partnered with spiritual courage is a formidable combination. God is seeking valiant warriors to deploy into His army.

The Greek word translated as "knowledge" in 2 Peter 1:5 is "gnōsis," which is defined as "knowing (the act), i.e. (by implication) knowledge..." Simply stated, knowledge is knowing facts.

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### Knowledge, Understanding, And Wisdom

*"For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding."*  
(Proverbs 2:6)

*"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding."* (Proverbs 9:10)

*"The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant."*  
(Psalm 25:14)

As evident in the Proverbs above, wisdom, knowledge, and understanding work together. The Lord gives these tools for life to those who fear Him.

So, what are the differences between these three aspects of "smart" living?

One could generally look at it like this: **knowledge** is being aware of and knowing something. **Understanding** is intelligent comprehension of what the known facts mean. **Wisdom** is skillfully applying the understanding we have of our knowledge.

A helpful example may be a traffic light. Knowledge is that the traffic signal has red, yellow,

and green lights. Understanding tells us that red means stop, yellow means caution, and green means go. Wisdom is when we realize that not everyone obeys the traffic lights, and we approach the intersections cautiously, being fully alert. Wisdom ensures it is safe to proceed when the light is green. These aspects must work together, or they are of little value.

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### Other Scriptures

The following are a few passages that show the vital importance of knowledge in the life of a believer.

*"Oh the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!"* (Romans 11:33)

*"And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another."* (Romans 15:14)

*"Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,"* (Philippians 3:8)

*"Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:"* (Ephesians 4:13)