

2 Peter 1 • When Knowledge Matters

1. (v.1-4) Knowledge is a gift that comes as part of the overall gift of **salvation** which is intended not just to change the **information** we know, but the way by which we conduct our **life**.
2. (v.5-11) Biblical knowledge is the application of biblical **truth** resulting in biblical **love**:
 - a. To “*faith*” is applied “*moral excellence*”. Saving faith in Christ is supposed to so change us that we become **visibly** different by our advertisement of a life that lives according to biblical **standards**.
 - b. To “*moral excellence*” is applied “*knowledge*”. True Christians are able to **discern** right from wrong.
 - c. To “*knowledge*” is applied “*self-control*” which leads to “*perseverance*”. This is the “*staying power*” of the Christian in times of **trial**, someone whose faith is ultimately guided by reliance more on **God’s Word** than earthly circumstances.
 - d. To “*perseverance*” is applied “*godliness*”. The word “*godliness*” actually means “right **worship**”. True Christians are known for **worshipping** not the things of this world but of Christ.
 - e. To “*godliness*” is applied “*brotherly kindness*”. True Christians are proven by their changed **relationships** with others.
 - f. And finally to “*brotherly kindness*” is applied “*love*”. This kind of wrapper for all of these virtues is not a “**gift**” or supernatural attribute, but the ultimate result of a life dedicated to God’s **Word** and **ways**.
- g. **Application**: Whereas knowledge is initially bestowed as a gift at the initial process of **salvation**, it is expected that we **GROW** in knowledge so that **salvation** is proved by quality of the change our life testifies to both to ourselves and others.
3. (v.12-21) Biblical knowledge is a gift which must be **put into practice** not only so that spiritual growth may result, but that we will build the correct **foundation** for our very life based on the **Word of God** and none other.