Pastor Rick Baker

September 27 2020

These Qualities

# KNOWLEDGE

2 Peter 2:5

## “Live Not By Lies”

Saving faith in Christ🡪 Moral excellence🡪**Knowledge**🡪

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge (“daath” Heb.)* Prov. 1:7

**What** is this knowledge that is imperative to add to our faith?

Knowledge that is essential to Christianity (Jn 17:3; 2 Pet. 1:2,3,8; 2:20)—*the “authentic knowledge…centered on the God of the Bible and on Christ*” (Kelly, 1969) for salvation.

 Right content of truth and belief versus the gnostics—“those who know”

 **Not** deeper knowledge needed for a deeper or more complete salvation—Col 1:27

 **Not** just intellectualism--To the natural man, science is the custodian of final truth (Prov 1:7; Jn 14:6)

 **Not** anti-intellectualism—Christianity is rational

 **Not** subjective experiential replacements for objective Scriptural reality

*What is not complete then…?*

“Added” knowledge (2 Pet. 1:5)—*after our salvation for our growth.*

Rom. 12:1,2—stop being conformed by being transformed through **the renewing of your mind**!

**Why** add knowledge?

 To discern the will of God (Rom. 12:1,2; Eph. 5:17) so that you will grow spiritually in order to understand and engage in God’s purpose for your life.

 To not be an easy target for false teaching and the wiles of the devil (Gal. 1:6-9; 4:15; 1 Tim. 4:1).

**How** do you make every effort to add knowledge to your faith in Christ? (adapted from Dave Breese, 1988)

* Study the scriptures
* Biblical preaching
* Theological books
* Healthy conversations
* Group discussions
* Reflective thinking/ Critical thinking

*To possess knowledge of God and of his salvation in Jesus is to possess responsibility to do what you know and persuade the ignorant.* (Breese) To increase in knowledge is a command that satisfies the appetite of the genuine believer.