Growing In Knowledge

2 Peter 1:5

"For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge," 2 Peter 1:5 (ESV)

"But grow 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 Peter 3:18 (ESV)

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” A.W. Tozer

I. <u>God’s Design: You are Designed for Eternal Discovery and Delight in God. Growing In Knowledge Is Both Your Earthly Calling and Your Eternal Destiny.</u>

- Christ’s Love: We are designed and called to discover the unfathomable depths of Christ's love.

"... may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." Ephesians 3:18-19 (ESV)

- Christ’s Wisdom: We are designed and called to discover and delight in the unsearchable riches of Christ's wisdom.

"Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor? Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid? For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen." Romans 11:33-36 (ESV)

Christ’s Grace: We are designed and called to search and marvel at the unsearchable riches of Christ's grace.

"so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus." Ephesians 2:7 (ESV)

II. <u>Christ-likeness: You are Called to Personal and Perpetual Transformation.</u>

The goal of growing in the knowledge of God is growing in the likeness of Christ.

Knowing is growing. Beholding is becoming.

"A man cannot look upon the love of God and of Christ in the gospel, but it will change him to be like God and Christ." Richard Sibbes

"And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit." 2 Corinthians 3:18 (ESV)

- ***Growing in knowledge is personally transforming.***

"So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good." 1 Peter 2:1-3 (ESV)

"But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ." Philippians 3:7 (ESV)

- ***Growing in knowledge is collectively transforming.***

"But that is not the way you learned Christ!— assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus,to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness." Ephesians 4:20-24 (ESV)

III. Worship: God is Worthy of Our Pre-eminent Attention and Adoration.

The ultimate goal of growing in the knowledge of God is to worship God as He truly deserves.

"So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." 1 Corinthians 10:31 (ESV)

"But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." John 4:23-24 (ESV

"Our experience of God will never become stale. It will deepen and develop, intensify and amplify, unfold and increase, broaden and balloon. Our relishing and rejoicing in God will sharpen and spread and extend and progress and mature and flower and blossom and widen and stretch and swell and snowball and inflate and lengthen and augment and advance and proliferate and accumulate and accelerate and multiply and heighten and reach a crescendo that will even then be only the beginning of an eternity of new and fresh insights into the majesty of who God is!" Sam Storms

Small Group Discussion Questions:

1. Growing in knowledge: When you think about your relationship with God, what has helped you grow most in knowing Him—not just knowing about Him, but knowing Him personally?

2. Discovering Christ's love: Ephesians 3:18-19 speaks of discovering the immeasurable depths of Christ's love. What has helped you better understand or experience the depth of His love for you?

3. A growing wonder: The sermon describes our relationship with God as an opportunity for eternal discovery and delight. What is something about God's character, wisdom, or grace that has recently captured your attention or deepened your appreciation of Him?

4. Knowing is growing: The goal of knowing God is becoming more like Christ. How have you seen your understanding of God change the way you think, respond, or relate to others?

5. Beholding and becoming: 2 Corinthians 3:18 teaches that as we behold the glory of the Lord, we are transformed into His likeness. What practices or rhythms help you regularly turn your attention toward Christ?

6. Personal transformation: 1 Peter 2:1-3 encourages us to put away attitudes and behaviors that hinder spiritual growth. What is one area where growing in your knowledge of Christ is helping you become more like Him?

7. Growing together: Ephesians 4:20-24 reminds us that spiritual transformation happens as we learn Christ together. How has being part of a Christian community or having relationships with other believers helped you grow in your faith?

8. Pre-eminent attention: A.W. Tozer said, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." What tends to compete for your attention, and what could help you give God a more prominent place in your daily thoughts?

9. A lifestyle of worship: 1 Corinthians 10:31 calls us to do everything for God's glory. What is one ordinary part of your daily life that could become a greater expression of worship as you become more conscious of God's presence?

10. An eternity of discovery: Sam Storms describes our experience of God as something that will continually deepen and expand throughout eternity. What excites you most about knowing God more fully, both now and forever?