

Small Group Study, week commencing 3rd October 2022

For starters

What would be your specialist subject on *Mastermind*?

Introduction

Peter continues to build up his equation for a fruitful Christian life, i.e.

<i>faith + goodness + knowledge + self-control + perseverance + godliness + mutual affection + love (verses 5-7)</i>	=	<i>effective and productive knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (verse 8)</i>
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In this study we take a closer look at **knowledge**.

Read

[2 Peter 1:1-12](#). It is worth reading the full passage before each of the studies in this series, but particularly for this one (see question 2 below).

Study

1. Was school a positive experience for you? What about further education, if you received any? How well do you think your formal education equipped you for the next stage in your life?
2. The word “knowledge” appears five times in 2 Peter 1 (verses 2,3,5,6,8), and the word “know” once (verse 12). Who or what does Peter expect us to know?
3. What benefits (according to verses 2, 3 and 8) come through “the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord”?
4. “Everywhere among conservatives we find persons who are Bible-taught but not Spirit-taught ... Truth that is not experienced is no better than error, and may be fully as dangerous. The scribes who sat in Moses’ seat were not the victims of error; they were the victims of their failure to experience the truth they taught.” (A. W. Tozer)

Do you agree with this statement? Discuss.

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5. What does it mean to “add knowledge” to faith and goodness? What doesn’t it mean? How, in practice, do we add it?

6. Read the following verses:

- Ephesians 1:17-21
- Philippians 1:9-11
- Colossians 1:9-12

How do these verses add to our understanding of knowledge?

7. How much does the idea of “knowledge” feature in your prayers for other people? Put one or more of the phrases about “knowledge” from 2 Peter 1:1-12, or from the passages above, into your own words to help you pray for someone else.

Prayer

Pray for more knowledge for each other, and for others outside your group, along the lines of what you have learnt and your own form of prayer from question 7.