

**“ADD TO YOUR FAITH” (2 PETER 1:5-7)
KNOWLEDGE**

Peter’s emphasis on “knowledge” in the life of the Christian is evident in his second epistle. He refers to this quality several times and it is always connected to growth.

In 2 Peter 1:2 “knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord” leads to the multiplication of “grace and peace.” With this in mind, every Christian who desires personal and brotherly peace should endeavor to learn more about the Lord.

In 2 Peter 1:3 “knowledge” is the key to “life and godliness.” Life is more difficult and burdensome with-

out a foundation of divine knowledge to help us conquer the trials of this life. Godly living is mere guesswork if we try to obtain it without a Scripture-based knowledge.

In 2 Peter 1:5 the “knowledge” we must “add” to our faith is defined as “moral wisdom” and “practical knowledge” (Thayer, Barnes). Being able to discern right from wrong and make honorable moral decisions depends upon our “knowledge.” One who is replete of divine knowledge will lack the tools essential to making good choices.

Finally, the last verse of 2 Peter teaches Christians to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” It should be every Christian’s goal to achieve spiritual growth. Yet, it cannot be done without “knowledge.” For this reason, personal Bible study, attending church assemblies for edification and making friends with wise spiritual advisers should be a priority for every Christian.

Is it a priority for you?

Joshua R. Welch



**WHY MY FAMILY NEEDS THE BIBLE
CHARACTER**

Most parents want their children to be people of good “character.” Many employers search for people of “character” along with credentials. Such “character” is not just developed naturally, but intentionally. It can be formed and molded. What better place to develop character than in God’s Word, the Bible?

One of the reasons Timothy grew up as a bright, young prospect in the Christian faith had much to do with being raised under the tutelage of the Scriptures. Paul wrote to Timothy, “...I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also” (2 Timothy 1:5). He later reveals how Timothy possessed such “genuine faith” saying, “...from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise...” (2 Timothy 3:15). Consider why the

Bible is an essential tool to developing a good character.

First, good “character” comes from good morals. Most parents do not want their children to be womanizers, alcoholics, cheats or liars. The Bible condemns such practices as sinful and the study of it will reinforce those lessons in our families.

Second, good “character” often stems from the overcoming of trials. Romans 5:2-3 says, “...we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope.” One does not have to personally experience trials to develop character. We can learn from the trials and experiences of others too. The Old and New Testaments are filled with accounts about the trials and temptations people faced. It does not gloss over the flaws of the godly or justify

the sins of the ungodly. Their actions, both good and bad, are honestly portrayed so we might learn from their experiences (Romans 15:4). My trials may not be precisely the same as Abraham, Moses, Job, Esther or Daniel but I can learn from these great men.

Finally, the Bible is extremely valuable in developing good character because it tells us what God thinks about situations. It is not left up to us what is “good and bad” when it comes to character. If God sets the standards, our basis for good “character” is objective, rather than subjective. We may look to the person of Christ and see him as our ultimate standard in forgiveness, humility, integrity and many more of the most esteemed character traits.

There are a lot of shady characters out there. The Bible can help if we will just read and apply.

Joshua R. Welch



“Most parents do not want their children to be womanizers, alcoholics, cheats or liars. The Bible condemns such practices as sinful and the study of it will reinforce those lessons in our families.”