

# Assurance 101

## Lesson 2

### Knowledge

#### PART I EXPLANATION

**Introduction:** In this path to biblical assurance of salvation, knowledge is listed after virtue. From this, it implies that there are many things that a Christian is already aware of, that need to be changed, prior to gaining a greater knowledge of the Scriptures. There are many obvious things to the conscience that have no place in the life of a Christian. These become evident to a converted mind and a greater knowledge of the Scriptures is not going to change them. Failure to heed the light already received will hinder any further light being given.

When obedience to truth already revealed in the Scriptures is disregarded, future study is unfruitful. *“if any man do His will, he will know of the doctrine.”* When our lives are obedient to God, the truths of the Scripture become much more evident because we see the relation of them to real life. Too often knowledge of Scriptural things becomes theoretical instead of practical. The Scriptures are given to reveal *“what man is to believe concerning God and what duty God requires of man”*.

Once we have added virtue to our faith, the Christian should be diligent in the pursuit of knowing the Scriptures. By adding virtue and changing your diet of worldliness, your appetite for the truth found in the Scriptures will increase. To be diligent in the acquisition of Bible knowledge requires immersing yourself into the Scriptures and committing to a lifestyle of being saturated with them. The best way to learn a foreign language is not to casually glance at the alphabet in your spare time; it is to live in a place where the new language is used exclusively. Having a steady diet of the Scriptures gives the necessary substance to promote spiritual growth.

Another reason that knowledge is placed in the second position after virtue is that having more knowledge than virtue is dangerous. A failure to live out the basics of Christianity prior to learning the facts and details of Christianity will only serve to puff up. We need only look to the institutions of higher learning around our country to see the devastating effects that great knowledge can have when they are not mixed with character and virtue. *“Knowledge puffeth up”* Just as much learning at secular universities and colleges is a source of pride, so can biblical and theological knowledge puff up and inflate the ego if such knowledge is not balanced with practical Christianity.

Maintaining the delicate balance of knowledge and obedience is crucial to proper Christian growth. When the balance of obedience and knowledge is maintained, the word of God serves to be a *“lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path”*. This clearly implies that the word of God will be a continual source of direction and guidance along the path of life **when obeyed**. When it is not obeyed the same Scriptural truth serves to condemn the actions of a person with great head knowledge but little heart and hand knowledge. The more light from the Scriptures that has been received the greater expectation of obedience God expects from the individual. The Bible says that, *“to him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin”*. *“To whom much has been given much will be required.”* While this should certainly not cause us to avoid growing in our knowledge of the Scriptures it should warn us against not implementing the truths that we have learned.

**Definitions:** For English use the Webster’s 1828 Dictionary and copy all appropriate definitions for each word. For the Greek and Hebrew use a Strong’s Concordance and copy the definition. The Strong’s number is in parenthesis.

English: **Knowledge** -

Greek: (1921) **epiginosko** *ep-ig-in-ocē'-ko*

(1097) **ginosko** *ghin-ocē'-ko*

(1108) **gnosis** *gno'-sis*

(4907) **sunesis** *soon'-es-is*

Hebrew: (5234) **nakar** *naw-kar'*

(3045) **yada'** *yaw-dah'*

### **Quotation:**

“We must know God’s will before we can do it aright, there is no going to heaven blindfolded.” Thomas Watson

“In the creation, light was the first thing that was made; so it is in the new creation: knowledge is the pillar of fire that goes before us, and lights us into the heavenly kingdom. It is light that must bring us to the “inheritance of the saints in light”. Thomas Watson

“Knowledge without wisdom may be soon discerned; it is usually curious and censorious.” Thomas Manton

“Many a man’s knowledge is a torch to light him into hell. Thou who hast knowledge of God’s will, but doth not do it, wherein dost thou excel the Devil, “who transforms himself into an angel of light”.” Thomas Watson

“A man may be theologically knowing and spiritually ignorant.” Stephen Charnock

“The bare knowledge of God’s will is inefficacious, it doth not better the heart. Knowledge alone is like a winter sun, which hath no heat or influenc; it doth not warm the affections, or purify the conscience. Judas was a great luminary, he knew God’s will, but he was a traitor.” Thomas Watson

“Let us not satisfy ourselves with a knowledge of God in the mass; a glance upon a picture never directs you to the discerning the worth and art of it.” Stephen Charnock

“The end of all arts and sciences is the practice of them. And as this is to be confessed in all other arts, so it cannot be decried in divinity and religion.” George Downname

“Seek not so much to have thy ear tickled as thy understanding enlightened.” Nehemiah Rogers

“Seldom was ever any knowledge given to keep, but to impart.” Joseph Hall

“The end of all learning is to know God, and out of that knowledge to love and imitate Him.” John Milton

“Your works may bear luscious-looking fruit, but you are not safe from the devil’s blight unless you add to your virtue knowledge. Knowledge is to faith as sunshine is to the farmer. Without it, faith cannot see to do her work. Nor can the work, once finished, be adequately inspected in the dim light of half-truths. If you do not ground yourself in the truth of the gospel, Satan will play upon your ignorance to thwart your spiritual growth. He has a clever proposition for every occasion. In one instance he may try to persuade you that you are not humble enough, and cause the weeds of self-condemnation to choke out the assurance of your salvation. Another time, he will flatter you into a false sense of pride in your humility, and the pestilence of self-righteousness will wipe out the Spirit’s crop of fruit in your life. Satan is not particular what lie he tells you; one will work as powerfully as another if he can get you to believe it.” William Gurnall

**Confessions:** (Look up and read these articles)

**London Baptist Confession of 1689**

Chapter 18 Of the Assurance of Grace and Salvation - paragraphs 1-4

**Spurgeon's Catechism**

Questions: 2,3,40,73

**PART II EXPLORATION**

**Key Questions** (*Answer in writing*)

1. Give two reasons that virtue should come before knowledge in our spiritual growth process.
2. What two things should a Christian be careful to maintain a delicate balance between?
3. What causes the study of the word of God to be unfruitful?
4. How did Jesus explain the best way to understand the doctrines of God?
5. According to Spurgeon's catechism what two things do the Scriptures principally teach?
6. What does it mean when the Bible says it will be a "lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path"?
7. What is required to be diligent in our pursuit of biblical knowledge?
8. What affect does obedience to God have upon our understanding of the Scriptures?

9. What happens to God's expectation for His children that have more knowledge?

10. What does Spurgeon's catechism teach is essential for the reading of the Scriptures to become effectual to salvation?

**Key Scriptures:**

Genesis 3:1-6 The forbidden tree in the garden of Eden was known as the tree of the

\_\_\_\_\_ of good and evil. The primary source of the temptation was that the tree was a tree to be \_\_\_\_\_ to make one \_\_\_\_\_ illustrating the danger that knowledge has when coupled with disobedience.

Exodus 31:3 When the Lord instructed Moses to select a man ready and able to build the tabernacle, He selected a man to build it that was filled with the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, in

\_\_\_\_\_, in \_\_\_\_\_, and in knowledge.

Numbers 15:27-36 In the law there was a distinction made between a sin of ignorance and a sin of presumption. For sins committed in ignorance it prescribes the appropriate sacrifice necessary, whether for the congregation as a whole or an individual. In verse 24 it distinguishes an offense committed by ignorance without \_\_\_\_\_. When a sin was committed presumptuously (open and high hand of rebellion) there was no forgiveness. An example is given of a man that intentionally out of rebellion was openly violating the Sabbath. God commanded him to be \_\_\_\_\_. This was not done because the man was ignorant of the Sabbath law but was knowingly breaking it in open rebellion.

II Chronicles 1:10 When Solomon was offered by God anything that he wanted he asked for

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Proverbs 1:7 The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord is the \_\_\_\_\_ of knowledge but

\_\_\_\_\_ despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 12:23 A prudent man \_\_\_\_\_ knowledge by not revealing everything that he knows.

Proverbs 17:27 A man with knowledge \_\_\_\_\_ his words by not doing the most talking.

Ecclesiastes 1:18 Knowledge increases \_\_\_\_\_ especially when it reveals more areas of disobedience and rebellion against God in your own life.

Isaiah 5:13 The cause of the captivity and bondage of God's people was a direct result of a lack of \_\_\_\_\_.

Hosea 4:1,6 God reprov'd the people because there was no knowledge of \_\_\_\_\_ in the land. They had a \_\_\_\_\_ of knowledge because they had \_\_\_\_\_ knowledge.

John 7:15-17 Jesus was questioned by the religious leaders in Jerusalem because they could not explain how He knew the Scriptures so well even though He had not attended their 'seminaries'. Jesus explained how a person can come to a greater understanding of the Scriptures. If any man \_\_\_\_\_ he shall \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ .

Romans 10:2 The Jews were known for having a \_\_\_\_\_ for the things of God but it was not \_\_\_\_\_ to knowledge.

I Corinthians 8:1 Knowledge \_\_\_\_\_ .

I Corinthians 15:34 Having people around them without a knowledge of God was viewed as a \_\_\_\_\_ .

Colossians 3:10 The spiritual man is \_\_\_\_\_ by greater knowledge of Christ.

James 3:13 A man of proper knowledge is identified by having \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ .

II Peter 1:2 Grace and peace are \_\_\_\_\_ to you through knowledge of Christ.

II Peter 3:18 Peter challenged us to \_\_\_\_\_ in grace and knowledge of Christ.

**Key Chapter(s)** (*Read daily and summarize in your own words the meaning of the chapter*):

Proverbs 1

### **PART III EXPECTATION**

**Memory verse:** I Peter 2:1-2

**Personal Definition:** (*Write a definition in your own words*)

Knowledge -

**Personal Application:** What is one Scriptural truth that you have not been obedient to (past or present) that has/will hinder God granting further light to you?

**Meditation question:** (*be prepared for discussion*) How does knowledge contribute to an assurance of salvation?

**Extra Credit:** Find or make a 'daily reading plan' for gaining a greater knowledge of the Scriptures and commit to reading the Bible every day.

