

“Knowing and Doing---The Desperate Need for Both in the Believers Life”

LESSON TEXT: Philippians 4:9

Philippians 4:9 NLT.

“Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you!”

LESSON INTRODUCTION:

- It has been said, and rightly so, that **“there is a difference between knowing and doing!”**
- In other words, **“we may have the KNOWLEDGE of what we should be doing, but DOING what that knowledge teaches us, is a completely different story!”**
- When we apply this two-fold truth to the Christian life, we walk away with the understanding that what we **KNOW** (believe) about the Kingdom of God and what we **DO** (obey, practice) within the Kingdom of God, can be two very different things!
- Here, where we live, we are in a battle with the spirit of religion!
 - That battle is for the souls of many people!
 - People who **“KNOW”** a lot about Jesus, but don’t really live like a **“FOLLOWER”** of Jesus--
-A Disciple!
- Going to church and saying you’re a **“CHRISTIAN”** has been something their family has been doing for decades!
 - It’s just part of **WHO** they are!
 - But the question is: **“Not what the FAMILY has done, but what do YOU believe, and better yet,..... HOW HAS WHAT YOU BELIEVE “CHANGED” HOW YOU LIVE!**
- What we **“LEARN”** and **“KNOW”** is **USELESS**, unless we are putting it into practice!

EXAMPLE:

*We can **KNOW** all day long that Jesus will save our souls, **BUT** that knowledge will not save us, unless we **ACT** upon it, and put it into practice by taking a step of faith and asking Jesus to come into our life!*

SCRIPTURE:

James 2:18-20 NLT.

Now someone may argue, "Some people have faith; others have good deeds." But I say, "How can you show me your faith if you don't have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds." ¹⁹ You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror. ²⁰ How foolish! Can't you see that faith without good deeds is useless?

LESSON ILLUSTRATION:

When Edward VI, the king of England in the 16th century, attended a worship service, he stood while the Word of God was read. He took notes during this time and later studied them with great care. Through the week he earnestly tried to apply them to his life. That's the kind of serious-minded response to truth the apostle James calls for. A single revealed fact cherished in the heart and acted upon is more vital to our growth than a head filled with lofty ideas about God.....One step forward in obedience is worth years of study about it.

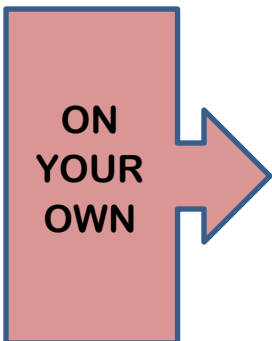
Chambers, *Our Daily Bread*, March 4, 1993.

Thomas a Kempis said...

I. THE PLACE OF KNOWLEDGE IN THE BELIEVERS LIFE!

- a. God knows absolutely **ALL** things!

In the space below, identify the term we use for God being "All-Knowing," and describe what that means!



Omniscience

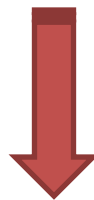
- Omniscience means: having knowledge of all things; universal knowledge. This word comes from two Latin roots: “omnis” which means “all” and “scientia” which means “knowledge.” Scientia is the same word that we get our English word “science.”

When Christians
Say God is
Omniscient...

- They mean that God knows all things — the past, present, and future. God is the source of all knowledge. God also knows all the potentialities of any situation. God knows every person’s thoughts — even before they think it.

A.W. Tozer

- ...Said in *The Pursuit of God*, “He is omniscient, which means that He knows in one free and effortless act all matter, all spirit, all relationships, all events.”



Omniscience of God – God Knows All Things

The omniscience of God is the principle that God is all-knowing; that He encompasses all knowledge of the universe past, present, and future. In the beginning, God created the world and everything in it, including knowledge.

At first look, the idea of the omniscience of God may seem to be a simple concept—God knows everything. But the more we study the Bible, the more we come to understand what an incredible truth it is. Psalm 147:4-5 tells us, “He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name. Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.” Imagine. God not only knows how many stars are in the universe, but knows each of them by name. An Australian study a few years ago put the number of stars we can see at 70,000 million million million, or the number 70 followed by 22 zeroes. That means there are more stars in the sky than there are grains of sand on all the beaches and deserts of the world! What an incredible picture of the omniscience of God.¹

¹ AllAboutGod.com

- i. There is nothing that is, or could ever be, that God does not already have a full understanding of!
- b. And Learning Comes from God!
 - i. God delights in teaching His people!
 - ii. He desires for His people to be in a process of learning and gaining knowledge!
 - iii. To gain knowledge, is to learn more about the Father and His Kingdom!
- c. Listen to what the Bible says about gaining knowledge:

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 119:66

⁶⁶ Teach me knowledge and good judgment, for I believe in your commands.

Proverbs 1:3-5

³ for acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young- let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance-

Proverbs 1:7

⁷ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

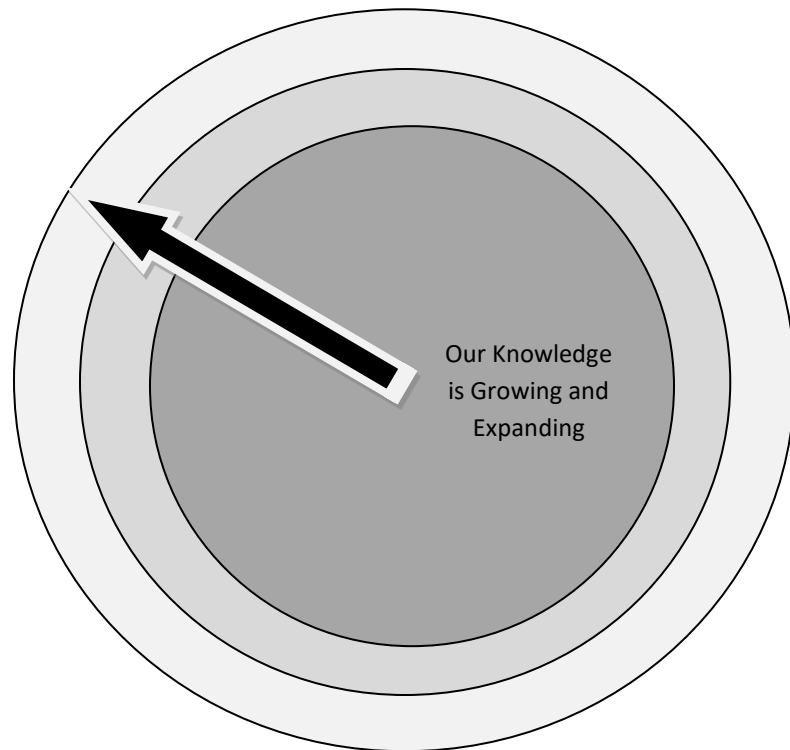
Proverbs 2:1-6

My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

- d. How does God reveal to us Knowledge about His Word, His ways, and His Kingdom?
 - i. First, through reading and studying the Bible!
 - ii. Second, through Pastors and Teachers who impart truth from that Bible to us!
 - iii. Third, from other committed solid Christian Brothers and Sisters in our Church!
 - iv. Fourth, through times of intimate devotion alone with God, including our worship of Him!

- v. Fifth, through the direct leading and instruction of the Holy Spirit!
 - vi. Sixth, through mistakes that we have made, that God graciously forgives and teaches us from!
- e. What we learn about God, His ways, and His Kingdom expands our knowledge!
- i. Kind of like this circle...

ILLUSTRATION:



II. LESSON POINT 2: The Place Of Faith In The Believers Life!

- a. When we speak of what we believe, we mean what we truly believe that the Lord has revealed to us, and therefore we put into practice in our lives!
 - i. Similar to our KNOWLEDGE growing, our FAITH is to grow AS WELL
- b. However, what we currently know about the Lord, the word of God, and the Kingdom of God is ever expanding and growing as we gain more Godly knowledge!
- c. **THEN.....** The question is: *“Do we **TRULY BELIEVE WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED?**”*

- i. If we TRULY believe what God has revealed to us, then we will put it into **PRACTICE!** *In other words, we will be obedient to what the Lord is teaching us?"*
- d. Listen to what Jesus said about HOW important this act of obeying what has been revealed to us by the Lord truly is:

SCRIPTURE:

John 14:15; 21; 23-24 & 26.

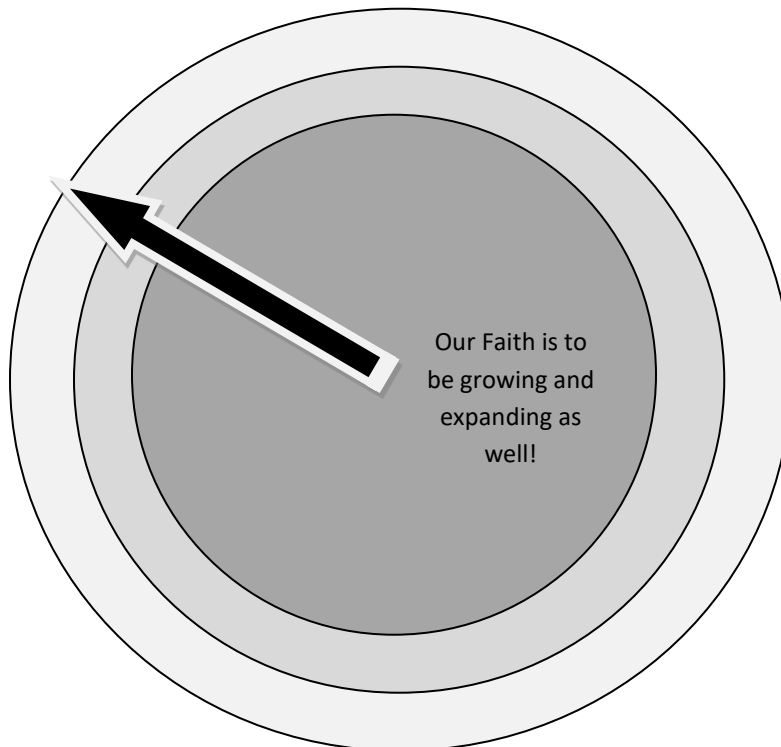
¹⁵"If you love me, you will obey what I command.

²¹Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."

²³Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

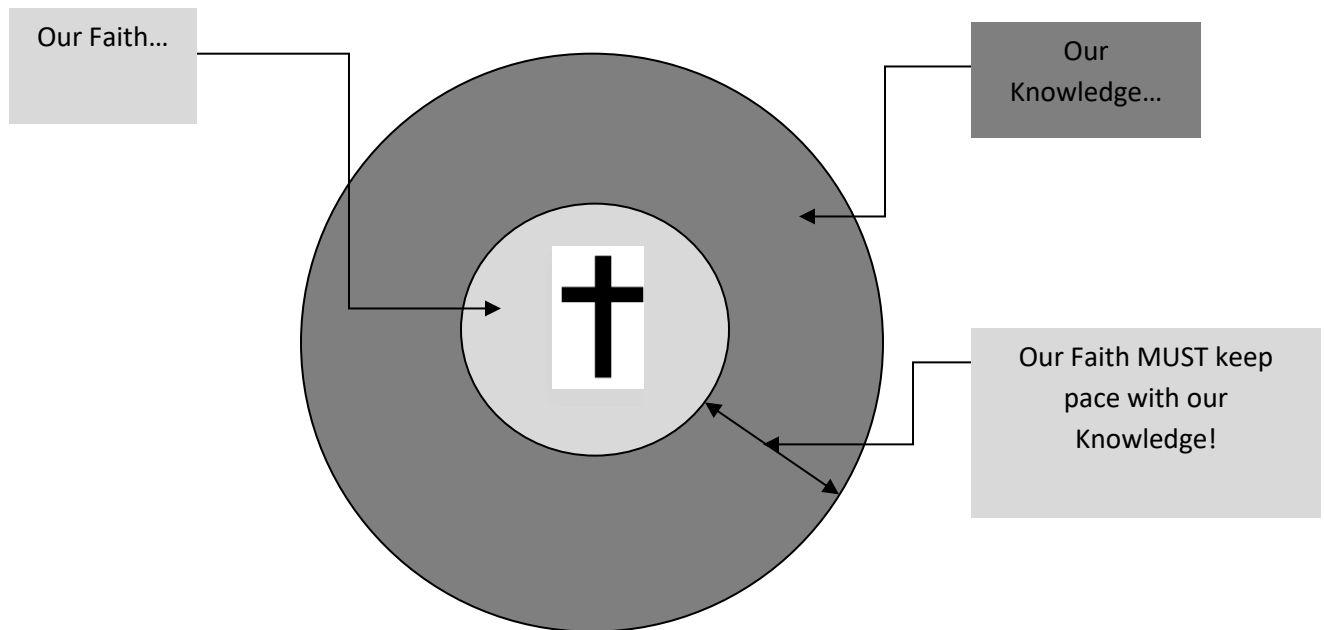
²⁶But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

- e. And like ***KNOWLEDGE***, our ***FAITH*** grows as well!
 - i. The more we learn about God, and put into practice, is an indicator that we ***TRULY BELIEVE*** what God has shown us!



III. **LESSON POINT 3: Our Faith Must Match Our Knowledge!**

- a. What we TRULY believe, we will sincerely PRACTICE!
- b. The PROBLEM is, sometimes what we have “LEARNED” from God, we do not put it into “PRACTICE!”
 - i. What we DON’T “practice,” we don’t TRULY BELIEVE!
- c. And, the growth of our “FAITH” doesn’t match the growth of our “KNOWLEDGE!”



- d. The question is: **“Are we held accountable for what we “BELIEVE AND PRACTICE” or what we “KNOW and SHOULD be practicing!”**

- e. Listen to the Word of God!

SCRIPTURE:

James 4:17 NIV

¹⁷Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

Luke 6:49 NIV

⁴⁹But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete."

2 Peter 1:5 NIV

⁵For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge;

Ephesians 4:13 NIV

until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

CONCLUSION:

- *We ARE held accountable, and will be JUDGED for what we KNOW we should be doing to please God, but are NOT DOING!*
- *I close with this very poignant Scripture:*

Luke 12:47-49

⁴⁷ "And a servant who knows what the master wants, but isn't prepared and doesn't carry out those instructions, will be severely punished. ⁴⁸ But someone who does not know, and then does something wrong, will be punished only lightly. When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required."