

2 Peter 1:5

In 2 Peter 1:2-15 Peter makes it clear that his goal, for the rest of his life, is to communicate 3 major truths to his followers.

1. God has provided you with every thing you need for life and godliness, along with precious and magnificent promises so that you can be partakers of the divine nature.
2. Because of these great graces, you must apply all diligence in your faith-walk to add to this faith moral excellence, and to moral excellence knowledge etc.
3. If these qualities become yours and are increasing...you will not be useless, unfruitful, blind, or at risk of falling away, but you will have the kingdom abundantly supplied to you!

We are spending these several weeks walking through the qualities Peter identifies in vs 5-7

1. We have unpacked the qualities of faith and moral excellence thus far.
2. Today we come to the quality of knowledge.

5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge,

1. Let us not forget that knowledge and moral excellence flow out of God given faith. These things are natural byproducts of true, saving faith...so they will be present to an extent in every believer...or at least they should be.
2. On the other hand, we must intentionally and personally apply all diligence to add the qualities in increasing measure to our faith.
3. We must, by God's grace, add to our moral excellence knowledge.

4. It is needed that this vigor, this energy, this activity be governed and controlled and qualified by intelligence, by understanding, and by enlightenment. D. Martin Lloyd Jones

What kind of knowledge is this?

1. A knowledge of doctrine, theology, church history, or big terminology?
2. No...*a very different thing from the false, pretentious, speculative knowledge in which some were beginning to boast themselves. LILLIE. (the theologs of our day).*

I propose to you that this is a knowledge of Jesus!

1. Knowledge is referring to knowledge of Jesus.
 - a. v2. *Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord*
 - b. v3. *seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence*
 - c. v8 *For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ*
 - d. 2 Peter 2:20 *For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...*

e. 2 Peter 3:18 *but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

2. I believe it is safe to deduce from what we have seen in Scripture, that Peter has in mind, not just any knowledge, but a knowing Jesus.
 - a. I mean, *really* knowing Jesus, not as an extra, but as if our lives depended on it.
 - b. Who he is should define who we are. If we know anything, let us know him.

There are 2 primary ways that we must know Jesus.

I. Biblically

We need to know Jesus biblically.

1. This is important because many of us have fallen in love with the Jesus of our culture
2. Or the Jesus of our denomination or church
3. Or the Jesus of our parents or grandparents
4. Or the Jesus we imagine...how we think Jesus would probably be.

We need to set aside all of that, permanently, and get our understanding and knowledge of Jesus solely from the Bible!

1. This is our only reliable and trustworthy source of information on Him.
2. What can we see?

We can see, from the Bible, at least 6 things about Jesus that we should know: broad broad strokes!

1. He is Eternal

- a. He did not come into existence in Bethlehem!
- b. John 1:1-2 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God.*
- c. He did not count equality with God a thing to be held onto but humbled himself...

2. He is Creator

- a. John 1:1-3 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being*
- b. Colossians 1:16-17 *For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things have been created through Him and for Him. 17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.*

3. He is God

- a. John 1:1 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*
- b. Hebrews 1:3 *And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power.*
- c. Colossians 1:15 *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.*
- d. Colossians 2:9 *For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,*
- e. John 10:33 *The Jews answered Him, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God."*

4. He is the Subject of the Old Testament

- a. Symbolized in the standards, ceremonies, and sacrifices of the Law
- b. Prophesied in the Prophets
- c. He appears in the narrative of the OT time and time again
 1. He came to Abraham along with 2 other angels under the Oaks of Mamre in Genesis 18 in order to announce the promise of Issac
 2. He is the man who wrestled with Jacob in Genesis 32:22-32
 3. He was also most likely the One who walked with the three Hebrews in the fiery furnace that Nebuchadnezzar described as “a son of the gods.’

5. He is the Subject of the New Testament

- a. Again, we are painting very broad strokes here, but in the New Testament he revealed Himself as the Great I AM
 1. I AM the Bread of life
 2. I AM the Light of the world
 3. I AM the Door of the sheep
 4. I AM the Good shepherd
 5. I AM the Resurrection and the life
 6. I AM the The way, the truth, and the life
 7. I AM the True Vine
- b. He was affirmed by signs that pointed to His deity
 1. Water into wine
 2. Healing of a noble man’s son
 3. Healing a lame man at Bethesda
 4. Feeds 5000
 5. Walks on the water and calms the storm
 6. Heals a man blind from birth.
 7. Raises Lazarus
- c. John 21:25 *And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books that would be written.*
- d. THE GOSPEL...ascension and exaltation

6. He is coming again in glory

a. Revelation 19:11-16 *And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. 12 His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. 13 He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. 15 From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. 16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”*

- b. I won't pretend to know with certainty the details surrounding the end times...but we know without a doubt that He is coming again!

This is the Jesus of the Bible! Is He your Jesus? We need to know Him first, biblically.

II. Personally

Personally know him!

1. We can know all about Jesus biblically, but we need to ensure that we actually know Him.
2. The Pharisees and religious leaders knew all "about" the Messiah, but they did not "know" the Messiah.
3. John 1:26 *John answered them saying, "I baptize in water, but among you stands One whom you do not know.*

How can we know Him? Again, in very broad strokes...

1. Through Conversion

- a. In Acts 26 Paul testifies before King Agrippa and gives us a clear picture of conversion
- b. Turn, Trust, and Transform

2. Through Communion

- a. Not in the sense of the Lord's supper, though we definitely benefit from that type of communion.
- b. But in the sense of communing with Him in the Word and Prayer
 1. In His Word we can hear His voice: pray, stay, and obey
 2. In prayer we speak to Him
 3. In meditation we think on Him
 - a. I am not referring to some mystical, eastern meditation
 - b. *As I have seen the silkworm eat into the leaf, and consume it, so ought we to do with the Word of the Lord; not crawl over its surface, but eat right into it till we have taken it into our inmost parts.* John Bunyan

3. Through Communicating

- a. As we communicate about Him, we experience Him personally and know Him personally.
- b. As we communicate about Him, we make clear that we know Him
- c. Matthew 12:34 *the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart*

4. Through Conforming

- a. As we conform more and more to His image, we not only become like Him, we know Him more.
- b. Romans 8:28-29 *And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. 29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son*
- c. Conforming to His image, isn't always easy

d. Philippians 3:7-11 *But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss **for the sake of Christ**. 8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of **knowing Christ Jesus** my Lord, **for whom** I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so **that I may gain Christ**, 9 and may **be found in Him**, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, 10 **that I may know Him** and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; 11 in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.*

Conclusion:

Knowledge of Him is not optional!

1. John 17:3 *This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*

2. Increase in our knowledge of Him... forever and all eternity!

Do you know the Jesus of the Bible?

1. The eternal Jesus
2. The creator Jesus
3. The God man Jesus
4. The Jesus of the Old Testament
5. The Jesus of the New Testament
6. The Jesus of Revelation?

Do you personally know Him?

1. Have you been truly converted?
2. Are you regularly communing with Him in the Word, prayer, and meditation?
3. Are you communicating about Him often?
4. Are you conforming into His image more and more?

*Tell me the story of Jesus, write on my heart every word
Tell me the story most precious, sweetest that ever was heard. Fanny Crosby*