

Lesson 2: Why Knowledge?

For those not here at the 9:15 class, a quick overview of what we are studying Luke 8.

The Parable of the Sower.

A. The seed, the WORD OF GOD, is provided by the Sower.

B. We are the soil.

C. 4 types of soil

- a. Soil that rejects the word outright and is swept away into the devil's kingdom.
- b. Soil that accepts the word (gospel) but roots never grow through the continued intake of the word and filling of the Spirit. They are going to heaven but no fruit.
- c. Soil that accepts the word, begins to grow in knowledge and in the power of the Spirit. There are little to no roots and the weeds of life overtake the crop.
- d. Fertile Soil that grows in the power of the Spirit.
Continues to grow roots and get stronger and stronger.

So continuing from the Parable of the Sower and building on

"Why knowledge? To Produce a Crop (GOOD FRUIT)"

I want to spend some time this morning looking at 2nd Peter 1 starting with verse 2:

2Peter 1-

² **Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord;**

³ **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.**

⁴ **For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.**

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

⁶ **and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in *your* self-control, perseverance, and in *your* perseverance, godliness,**

⁷ **and in *your* godliness, brotherly kindness, and in *your* brotherly kindness, love.**

⁸ **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.**

⁹ **For he who lacks these *qualities* is blind *or* short-sighted, having forgotten *his* purification from his former sins.**

1. Out of the gate in verse 2. Grace and Peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord.

- 2.** Grace and Peace be multiplied through the knowledge of WHAT?
- a. His divine power (***Holy Spirit***) has granted us everything pertaining to life and godliness: These things are given to us. We accept them through faith in the Holy Spirit.
 - b. How much peace do we gain knowing and trusting that God, the creator of all things, omnipotent God, through his grace has granted us EVERYTHING pertaining to life and godliness?
 - c. How would peace be multiplied if we didn't understand the love and power of God and that He will provide everything pertaining to life.
 - d. How much stress do Christians put on themselves to achieve godliness on our own because they don't understand what God can and will do for us in HIS grace?
- 3.** How do we know what "everything pertaining to life and godliness" is? Through the true knowledge of Him who called us. - knowledge from the Holy Spirit through the receiving of the Word.
- 4.** What do we know? Through the true knowledge of Christ we learn the precious and magnificent promises which multiply our peace and grace.

5. Peter refers to the promises in 1Peter 1

- a. ³ **Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,**
⁴ **to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,**
⁵ **who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.**

- i. Promises: Born again (a new creation) to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus from the dead
- ii. Protected by the power of God through faith

6. Through these promises, and the enabling power of God (vs 3 of 2 Peter 1) we may become partakers of the divine nature: We may become more like Christ.

a. 1 John 4:

- ¹³ **This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us his Spirit.**
- ¹⁴ **And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.**
- ¹⁵ **If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God.**

¹⁶ **And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.**

¹⁷ **This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus.**

7. When we are partakers of the divine nature (filled with the Spirit), we have the power to escape the corruption caused by the lusts (evil desires) of the world.
8. Moving to Verses 5 - 7 which describes the function of the divine nature:
 - a. ⁵ **Now for this very reason (being a partaker of the divine nature) also, with all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in *your* moral excellence, knowledge, ⁶ and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in *your* self-control, perseverance, and in *your* perseverance, godliness, ⁷ and in *your* godliness, brotherly kindness, and in *your* brotherly kindness, love.**
 - b. We aren't going to break down these verses but they are describing the function of the divine nature and our transformation to being like Christ. Quoting from the Bible Knowledge Commentary page (865). "The function of the Divine Nature:"

In this beautiful paragraph, Peter orchestrates a **SYMPHONY OF GRACE**. To the melody line of Faith he leads believers to add harmony in a blend of seven Christian virtues which he lists without explanation or description.

c. Summary so far:

- i. Goal of knowledge: **To produce crop:**
- ii. Through our knowledge, we know and trust that God has provided all things for our daily lives (filling of the Spirit)
- iii. Through knowledge we understand we are born again and are protected by the Power God through our lives
- iv. Through our knowledge we understand that as we are transformed to be more like Christ (through the power of the Spirit) we are no longer slaves to the power of sin.
- v. As we overcome the power of sin through the filling of the Spirit, we begin to embody the characteristics of Christ:

1. Moral excellence, knowledge (epignosis), self-control, perseverance of Faith, brotherly kindness and Love.

2. The path to Spiritual Maturity

9. Moving to verse 8: ⁸ **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.**

a. If these qualities are yours implies that they can be ours but it is a choice. They are Grace Gifts of God. Compare these to the filling of the Holy Spirit.

b. And are increasing. There is no standing still in our spiritual journey. It is kind of like working out. We are either increasing our muscle strength and endurance or we are losing it.

c. What is the true knowledge? **Epignosis**. It is not for knowledge sake, but knowledge that is activated through the power of the Holy Spirit to effect transformation in our lives.

d. When these qualities are in us and increasing, through the filling of the Spirit, we are producing Good Fruit or the Crop referred to in the parable of the Sower.

e. John 15:5

⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

10. Contrast with Verse 9: ⁹ For he who lacks these *qualities* is blind *or* short-sighted, having forgotten *his* purification from his former sins.

- a. We all become blind and short sighted at times.
- b. We all forget the grace we have been shown through the love of God.
- c. We all are challenged by the craziness of this world and our own desires.
- d. Every moment we spend out of the filling of the Spirit, we have lost an opportunity to produce the crop.

So, let's go back to the original question and summarize and see how this flows:

D.The seed, the WORD OF GOD, is provided by the Sower.

E. We are the soil.

F. 4 types of soil

- a. Soil that rejects the word outright and is swept away into the devil's kingdom.

- b. Soil that accepts the word (gospel) but roots never grow through the continued intake of the word and filling of the Spirit. They are going to heaven but no fruit.
- c. Soil that accepts the word, begins to grow in knowledge and in the power of the Spirit. There are little to no roots and the weeds of life overtake the crop.
- d. Fertile Soil that grows in the power of the Spirit. Continues to grow roots and get stronger and stronger.

G. Through the continuous intake of the Word of God, the promises God has made to us become real in our life.

- a. The promise of being born again as a new creation in Christ
- b. The promise of the Power of God protecting us in our lives.

H. As we continue to grow in our knowledge of the word of God, through the filling of the Spirit, our perseverance of our Faith continues to increase.

- a. We can exult in our tribulations
- b. We are partakers in the Divine Nature
- c. We are being transformed into the likeness of Christ

- I. Our transformation into the likeness of Christ continues brings about a change in our spiritual character; (stronger and stronger roots).
 - a. Moral excellence, knowledge (**epignosis**), self-control, perseverance of Faith, brotherly kindness and Love.
 - J. The Love of God flowing through us produces good fruit (the crop)
 - K. Then when stand before the Judgement seat of Christ, our crop will be evaluated.**
- 2 Cor 5:10 - For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.**

So here is the question I will leave all of us with this morning:

Are you good with your soil? Are you producing the crop you want to produce with strong roots for sustained growth? Or are you short-sighted and blind to plan of God.

We will close with a prayer that we should all pray, because God is the cultivator of the soil.

Please turn to Col 1: 9 - We will read this as our closing Prayer:

Paul praying for the believers in Philippi.

God fill me with the knowledge of your will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives,

¹⁰ so that I may live a life worthy you and please you in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,

¹¹ being strengthened with all power according to your glorious might so that I may have great endurance and patience,

¹² and giving joyful thanks to you, who has qualified me to share in the inheritance of your holy people in the kingdom of light.

¹³ For you have rescued me from the dominion of darkness and brought me into the kingdom of the Son you love,

¹⁴ in whom I have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

AMEN