

## Knowledge

If I become a Christian, do I know all I need to know about the Bible? Can I just hang on to my basic plan of salvation knowledge and not grow and be pleasing to God? Why should I grow in knowledge about the Bible and how do I do that? In this lesson hopefully, all these questions will be answered as we look at the Bible and see if we really need to know very much about it to please God.

### Growing in Knowledge is Commanded

**1 Thessalonians 5:21** “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.” A Christian needs to grow in knowledge of the Bible so they can hold onto the sound teachings in it, and reject false teachings they might hear from misinformed individuals.

**Hebrews 5:12-14** “For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.” For a Christian to grow in knowledge they must spend time in God’s word, to strengthen not only themselves but to be able to teach it to others. After all, Christians need to try and spread the Word of God and how can they do that if they do not know God’s Word? God commands that we grow in knowledge.

**2 Peter 3:18** “But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.” Clearly, the Apostle Peter tells us we must grow in our knowledge of the Lord. This is a command from God through Peter’s writing. Christians will not grow in knowledge of the Lord if they do not study God’s Word.

**1 John 4:1** “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.” One must grow in Biblical knowledge so they will know sound teaching from false teaching.

### Why should a Christian grow in knowledge?

**Psalm 119:104** “Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.” Time spent in study of God’s Word will increase ones understanding of it.

**Matthew 5:6** “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.” A Christian should feed on the teachings of the Bible so their knowledge will grow. A Christian that does not feed on the Word of God will not grow in knowledge.

**John 12:48** “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.” To have knowledge of God’s Word is to gain an understanding of what God expects from us, and how we will all be judged on judgement day. To not have knowledge of God’s Word, is to reject God and be unprepared for judgement day.

**John 14: 1-3** “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” To grow in knowledge of God’s Word, is for an obedient Christian to be prepared to receive an eternal home in Heaven. To not grow in knowledge of God’s Word, is to be unprepared and miss out on a home in Heaven.

**Romans 10:17** “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” Growing in knowledge of God’s Word will help a Christian grow in faith.

**2 Timothy 2:15** “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” God expects Christians to study His Word so they will know and understand it. This is how Christians grow in knowledge of the Bible and understand if they are living as God wants them to or not. Clearly, this also means that God is not going to just zap Bible knowledge into the head of Christians today, or we would not need to study it. God expects us today to put time into our growth in knowledge of the Bible.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” God wants us to know what He expects of us so He gave us an instruction book. If we choose to not read and study it, we will fail to grow spiritually and that is our fault, not God’s. He gave us the information we need to have eternal salvation, but also the free will to decide if we want to go to Heaven or not. Christians that grow in knowledge through study of God’s word are trying to get into Heaven. People that have no time for God’s word do not have going to Heaven as a priority and will miss it sadly. Why would anyone not want to know what the creator of everything wants us to know?

**Hebrews 6:1-3** “Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this will we do, if God permit.” It is important for a Christian to know the basics of the Bible, but they must continue to build on the foundations and push forward to greater knowledge and understanding of the Bible. A Christian must also apply this knowledge to their daily life.

**James 1:21-25** “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.” Christians must know God’s Word and be doers of His will. It is good, but not enough, to know God’s Word. Christians must know and obey God’s Word to grow in knowledge of the Bible.

**1 John 2:1-4** “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. And hereby we do

know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.” A faithful Christian keeps the commandments of God. Without knowledge of the Bible how can one know the commandments of God?

### Ways to gain knowledge

**Acts 17:10-11** “And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” How can anyone grow in Bible knowledge if they do not read the Bible? How can anyone know if what their Bible class teacher or preacher is teaching is correct unless they read their Bibles? Clearly, reading and studying God’s Word is vitally important to a Christian's knowledge growth. Just as a person will not grow stronger if they do not eat food. A Christian will not grow in knowledge if they do not read and study God’s Word which is our spiritual food.

**2 Timothy 4:13** “The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments.” The Apostle Paul, unlike you and me, was granted miraculous knowledge by God to know what to preach to people and what to write for the New Testament. Even Paul felt like he needed to study. Today we do not have the miraculous gifts that The Apostles and those the Apostles laid hands on had, because we have the completed Word of God and no longer need these gifts to know what God expects from us. So if Paul believed it was important to study, surely all of us need to study.

**Titus 2:4-7** “That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded. In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity” Another way for a Christian to grow in knowledge is to learn from older sound Christians. Always verify what you learn from them with the Bible, but learning from fellow but more experienced Christians can be a valuable resource.

**Hebrews 10:24-25** “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” Christians grow in Bible knowledge by being at every worship service they can be at and putting God first. Missing worship to watch TV, go fishing, or whatever will not further knowledge growth and is disobedient to God. We are all sick sometimes, God understand that. If I am not at worship and I could be I am not putting God first, which will harm my growth in knowledge of the Bible.

### Conclusion

While it is not necessary to memorize the entire Bible word for word and be able to recite it on command. It is also not pleasing to God to quit growing in our biblical knowledge after we become Christians and decide we no longer need to study. God has in fact commanded us to

continue to grow in our Biblical knowledge, so we can keep ourselves on the right track, as well as be able to teach others about God. We also need to grow in our knowledge so we can make sure what we are being taught by our preachers and Bible class teachers is according to God's will, and if it is not perhaps, we can help them grow their knowledge. Gaining knowledge about the Bible is a lifelong process that there really is no retirement from.