

# Maple Springs Baptist Church

Series: The Effective Life

Week 4: Adding Knowledge

With intense effort, you must add goodness to your faith. But here's the next great step—now you must add knowledge to your goodness (2 Peter 1:5).

When Peter spoke of knowledge, he was telling us to follow in his own footsteps and be a disciple. **That involves 3 steps. There's a personal step, a thoughtful step, and a behavioral step.**

- **I Will Follow You –a personal step.** True knowledge begins with knowing the Lord Jesus and to follow Him with all your heart. This is discipleship, and it includes two important stages.

- **Move from the shoreline to the Savior**

When Jesus called him, Peter left the shoreline of Galilee to follow the Savior. **Matthew 4:18-20.**

**Adding knowledge to your life begins when you leave the shoreline of your own purposes and become a disciple of the Savior.**

- **Move from head knowledge to heart knowledge**

When Peter used the words *know* and *knowledge*, he understood knowing as a very intimate and personal concept. This kind of knowledge makes you hunger for the Savior and grow in your love for Him. **Philippians 1:9.** When love and knowledge get together, it's a merging of heart and head.

- **I Will Study You –a thoughtful step.** When Peter spoke of knowledge, he was also talking about actively learning, doing something very mindful and thoughtful. In short, the Lord wants you to study Him.

2 ways you can engage more with God's Word under the tutoring of the Holy Spirit.

- **Study His Word as a textbook**

**It's not possible to add knowledge to your Goodness if you neglect to study Scripture.**

**Growing in the knowledge of God means devoting yourself to the study and observance of God's law and of God Himself.**

- **Study His Word as a survival guide**

God has given us a Book to guide us through life!

- **I Will Obey You –a behavioral step.** When Peter and Andrew and the other disciples decided to leave their nets and follow Christ, they developed a craving for His love. To them, knowing Him was very personal—it was a relationship. They learned the truth He imparted to them, but for that knowledge to really penetrate their lives they had to turn away from their old patterns and obey Him. They had to learn His will and His ways.
  - **Be prepared to change your values.** The more we know about God’s Word and His will, the more it changes our lives.
  - **Be prepared to change your vision.** As you grow in the knowledge of God, you see the world differently. You begin to see it as God sees it. You will see the future differently as well.