

THROUGH AN INCREASING KNOWLEDGE

II PETER 1:3-4

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: As you continue to study the basics of your faith, remember that faith starts when “I give up” and stop the depending on my own attempts at being right with God! Depending on God’s grace, you can experience His approval, His kindness, and His love by knowledge (epignosis) that increases as you spend time with Jesus, sitting at His feet and learning from His Holy Spirit.

YOU CAN HAVE A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS knowing that it is based on grace (divine power). This power is yours and is unearned, unmerited, and given to you by your Lord as a favor, expecting nothing in return. This relationship, this knowledge (epignosis) of Him becomes *real* to you, and you *experience* it in your humble presence with Jesus as you spend time with Him. (II Peter 1:3, fn 1:2, Ephesians 1:16-20, fn 1:16-17, fn 1:19-20, II Peter 3:12-18, fn 3:14, Colossians 1:28-29, fn 1:28-29[1st])) *How could grace help you to experience your epignosis relationship with Jesus?*

YOU ARE GIVEN PRECIOUS PROMISES which are yours to discover when in humility you study and meditate on God’s Word. The Holy Spirit can not only use these promises in your life now, but also to assure you of your relationship with Jesus and cause you to look forward to meeting Jesus in your life to come. (II Peter 1:4, I Thessalonians 2:13, fn 2:13, I John 5:11-13, fn 5:12, I John 3:2-3, fn 3:2-3, John 10:10, fn 10:10, Ephesians 1:13-14, fn 1:13-14) *What are some Scriptures like John 10:10 that are precious promises to you?*

YOU MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE DIVINE NATURE which includes the Holy Spirit’s power and abundant grace to live the Christ life and not cave in to your old sinful desires. With epignosis (the knowledge gained by “sitting at Jesus’ feet” and learning from His Word) your faith increases and becomes powerful. With only gnosis (knowledge about God or just fact-finding) your faith will be feeble. (II Peter 1:2-4, fn 1:3-4, Luke 10:38-42, fn 10:38-42, Galatians 5:16-18, fn 5:16-18, Romans 8:14-17, fn 8:14-17[2nd])) *What would it take for you to sit at Jesus’ feet?*

Are you taking time to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit with the Living Word teaching you and giving you His joy, His love, and His peace?

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