

## The Zealous Student | The Discipleship Spiral, Part 2

**Learning is the process of acquiring information about God, systematizing it, and then using it for His glory.**

### I. The Nature of the Knowledge of God

- **The Knowledge of God is Good.**
  - Proverbs 19:2
  - Many people despise knowledge. Those people are not disciples.
  - Some people don't hate knowledge so much as they hate the *process* of acquiring it. Others believe that a person with more knowledge than everyone else is too big for their britches. And still others are *afraid* of certain knowledge believing that learning such knowledge will corrupt the one who learns it.
  - But knowledge — in and of itself — especially the knowledge of God, is always good.
- **The Knowledge of God is Power.**
  - Proverbs 13:16, 3:20, 24:5; Romans 10:14
  - Knowledge *increases* power — literally this means knowledge *gives strength* to power. It makes power more powerful. If I don't know how to add, I'm *powerless* to use addition.
  - Knowledge is good because knowledge gives us the ability to do the things we should.
  - Therefore, sometimes our problems as disciples of Christ are issues of ignorance.
- **The Knowledge of God Can Save.**
  - Proverbs 11:9
  - Every situation in which we find ourselves is a situation that requires us to make a Christ-honoring decision. I'll either choose to worship God or myself. Therefore, being able to make the right decision will save me from the heartaches that come from displeasing my God.
- **The Knowledge of God is Valuable.**
  - Proverbs 8:10
  - Because knowledge is so good, and because it enables us to serve God better, and because it saves us from making bad decisions that can negatively affect every area of our lives, the knowledge of God is far more valuable than money.

### II. The Source of the Knowledge of God

- Proverbs 2:6, 22:20-21
- God is the source of all truth. God is the way, the truth, and the life. The sum of His Word is truth. There is no truth that isn't God's truth.
- This is why absolute truth absolutely exists. There is right, and there is wrong. There is truth, and there are lies. Lies are a creation of Satan, but all truth radiates from God.
- This is why the knowledge of God is so good and powerful. Lies are falsehoods. When you think you know something, but that something is a lie, you not only *don't* possess knowledge, you possess *anti-knowledge*.
- The lie steals from your store of knowledge by convincing you to jettison facts and substitute them for falsehoods. And in the same way that knowledge is good and powerful, lies are bad and damaging.

### III. The Rejection of the Knowledge of God

- Proverbs 1:22, 19:27, 1:29-33
- Anyone who would take a bar of pure gold and substitute it for a common, ordinary rock is a fool. Only someone bereft of common sense would make such a detrimental decision. And it would have to be an even bigger fool who would — standing there empty-handed — refuse to accept a bar of gold being offered to him for free.
- But we do it every day. Children in particular are very good at this. Because they're born into this world with foolishness knotted up in their hearts, they regularly substitute the good and powerful knowledge of God for impotent, destructive lies. But adults do it all the time too.
- And the Bible also has a lot to say about the consequences of rejecting knowledge.

### IV. The Acquisition of the Knowledge of God

- **We need to want the knowledge of God.**
  - Proverbs 15:14, 1:1
  - We absolutely must desire knowledge, and we have to teach our fellow disciple to value it as well. This starts with how we approach the knowledge of God.
  - Not only do we owe it to God to be eternal students, we owe it to our fellow disciples to teach them how to love learning.
- **We need to work for the knowledge of God.**
  - Proverbs 2:1-5, 22:17, 10:14
  - Learning is often harder than amusement. And — if we want to do it well — we'll need to really apply ourselves — especially as we get higher up the mountain and the information we're learning becomes broader and deeper. That's why we need to apply ourselves. We're not going to just absorb knowledge by sitting brainlessly in church. We need to lean forward, be attentive, and actively work to learn.
- **We need to reject that which doesn't give us the knowledge of God.**
  - Proverbs 14:7
  - Many of God's people are foolish because they surround themselves with fools. Their friends, their entertainment, even their teachers and mentors are fools. How could we ever expect that we're going to become wise surrounded by all of that?
  - We need to reject everything that lies to us. We don't have time to be lied to. We need to be learning the things of God; we don't have time to have our learning stripped away and replaced by anti-knowledge.
- **We need to run after that which does provide the knowledge of God.**
  - Proverbs 15:2, 7
  - Instead of surrounding ourselves with fools, we need to run to wise men and women who will help us learn.
  - We also need to run toward *discipline*. There are four stages of biblical discipline, but the first two stages are instruction and reproof.
    - Disciples of Christ will run toward instruction. Proverbs 21:11
    - But we also need to run toward reproof. Proverbs 19:25,
    - It takes a lot of humility and maturity, but a teachable disciple is thankful when someone tells him he's wrong. Christ-honoring reproof says, "I know you thought what you did was a good idea, but it was wrong." Reproof is providing the knowledge that the individual was functioning off a lie instead of truth.
    - And when a wise man is reproved, he gains that knowledge — he learns the lesson.