

Peter speaks of "the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord." In verse 3 he speaks of "our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness."

The Bible makes a distinction between simple factual knowledge of things or persons and personal knowledge of persons. In 1 John 5:20, for example, John writes:

"We know also that the Son of God has come [this is factual knowledge] and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true [this is personal knowledge, knowledge of personal relationship]."

In 2 Peter 1:3 we read that we have been given everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of God. Think of it! **EVERYTHING WE NEED!**

Knowing God in a personal way we have the privilege of coming to Him and of asking His help when we are tempted, or when we are called on to perform some difficult task, or when some cause of anxiety threatens to unnerve us, or some burden threatens to press us into the ground. And when we sin, we can come to Him personally and confess our sinful thoughts, desires, and actions, and know that He forgives and cleanses us, so that we can go on and move forward in the Christian life!

F. The sixth foundational gift Peter refers to is found in verse 9. Peter says that God has cleansed us from our sins through the blood of Christ.

1 Peter 2:24 tells us: "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed."

The weight of our sins no longer hangs around our necks like a heavy chain, threatening to drag us down. We do not need to wallow in futile, repetitious remorse or sink down in paralyzing apathy as we reflect on our sins. Thank God, our sins are gone! Christ has taken them on Himself and carried them all away.

Is it important to know this? I believe it is important for motivation.

Think back to a time when you showed a zero balance on your credit card statement or your department store account. Was that exciting? Or think back to when you began a new diary or record book or journal; or a new appointment book with all the pages clean and fresh; or a new notebook. Was that