

## The Key to Spiritual Growth

Sam Williams

2 Peter 3:18

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever! Amen.

### Knowledge in the Bible...

... is more than an \_\_\_\_\_  
understanding of facts

... is primarily an \_\_\_\_\_  
understanding of truth

### Growth Principle

- **Truth - Matthew 13:10-16**

<sup>10</sup>The disciples came to him and asked, "Why do you speak to the people in parables?"

<sup>11</sup>He replied, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. <sup>12</sup>Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. <sup>13</sup>This is why I speak to them in parables:

"Though seeing, they do not see;

though hearing, they do not hear or understand. <sup>14</sup>In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:

" 'You will be ever hearing but never understanding;  
you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.

<sup>15</sup>For this people's heart has become calloused;

they hardly hear with their ears,

and they have closed their eyes.

Otherwise they might see with their eyes,

hear with their ears,

understand with their hearts

and turn, and I would heal them.' <sup>16</sup>But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear.

- **Resources - Matthew 15:14-29**

<sup>14</sup>Leave them; they are blind guides. If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit."

<sup>15</sup>Peter said, "Explain the parable to us."

<sup>16</sup>"Are you still so dull?" Jesus asked them. <sup>17</sup>"Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? <sup>18</sup>But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.' <sup>19</sup>For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. <sup>20</sup>These are what make a man 'unclean'; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him 'unclean.' "

<sup>21</sup>Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup>A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is suffering terribly from demon-possession."

<sup>23</sup>Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us."

<sup>24</sup>He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel."

<sup>25</sup>The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said.

<sup>26</sup>He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs."

<sup>27</sup>"Yes, Lord," she said, "but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."

<sup>28</sup>Then Jesus answered, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

<sup>29</sup>Jesus left there and went along the Sea of Galilee. Then he went up on a mountainside and sat down.

- **Witness - Mark 4:21-25**

<sup>21</sup>He said to them, "Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a bowl or a bed? Instead, don't you put it on its stand? <sup>22</sup>For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open. <sup>23</sup>If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear."

<sup>24</sup>"Consider carefully what you hear," he continued. "With the measure you use, it will be measured to you—and even more. <sup>25</sup>Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him."

One Principle: \_\_\_\_\_ it or \_\_\_\_\_ it

- Promise: If I act on what I know... I will \_\_\_\_\_

- Warning: If I don't act on what I know... I will \_\_\_\_\_