



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC The Knowledge of our Faith

SPEAKER Ps Darren Kuek

THEME Lessons from 2 Peter

DATE 5 & 6 June 2021

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

How can we know God better? Is it just by reading the bible, praying, or attending church? Expounding on 2 Peter 1:1-11, Ps Darren shares how we can be more effective and fruitful in our knowledge of God.

THE KNOWLEDGE OF OUR FAITH (2 PETER 1-11)

1. The Gift of our Faith (v1-4)

In v3-4, Peter mentions that through our knowledge of God, we have grace and peace multiplied in our lives. Through our knowledge of God, we have also been given “great and precious” promises (e.g. godliness). Knowledge in this instance, refers to the Greek word – epignosis, which means to have a personal relationship (i.e. a knowledge that you experience personally) with God. Knowing God personally (i.e. our faith) is a gift that was given by God.

2. The Effort of our Faith (v5-7)

Now that we have a knowledge of God through our personal relationship with him, Peter then exhorts us to make every effort to add these seven things to our faith:

v5-7	Explanation
Virtue	Moral excellence (i.e. to be morally good)
Knowledge	Applied knowledge (i.e. to understand God personally)
Self-Control	Mastery (i.e. allow the Holy Spirit to enable you in instances)
Steadfastness	A patient enduring (i.e. to be faithful and not give up)
Godliness	Piety to God (i.e. devotion to God)
Brotherly affection	Love for one another (i.e. love others)
Love	Love of God (i.e. agape love)

However, one might question why we have to strive hard to add the above qualities when we have already been given the gift of knowing God and is it alright if we don't do so?

3. The Confirmation of our Faith (v6-11)

Peter says in v8 that, for if we have these qualities, it helps us to be effective and fruitful in knowing God. Striving to add these seven qualities to our faith will not only help us know God more, it will also confirm our faith → because all those who are in the faith will desire and strive for these things to know God better.

However, Ps Darren cautioned that one should not then think that it's about works. In v10, it says that doing so will "confirm" our calling, and not "earn" our calling.

To know God is not merely to know the things about him; to know God is to share in His nature and to add His qualities to our faith. As we make every effort to add those seven things mentioned, we grow to become more and more like God and that's how we truly know Him – when we are like Him.

CONCLUSION

To become fruitful and effective in knowing God is not about doing the seven things occasionally, but by abounding in those qualities, striving and be deliberate about adding them to our faith (Hebrews 12:14).

In Philippians 3:10, Paul says "I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death" – when we become more like Christ, that is how we come to know God.

QUESTIONS

1. What does a personal relationship with God mean to you? During the past few weeks of Phase 2 (Heightened Alert), how have you been building your personal relationship with God?

2. 2 Peter 5-7 lists seven qualities that Peter exhorts us to make every effort in adding to our faith. What is the result of possessing these seven qualities? Which of these results are important to you?

3. Peter exhorts us to not be passive in our faith. Consider an action or a step to take towards abounding in the qualities listed in the previous question. Share with your cell-group or accountability partner for AnC.