

The Productive and Effective Life Part 3: Knowledge

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- **The Effective and Productive Life:** 8 Biblical Steps to Reaching Your Full Potential.
- Not so much a “self-help” series, but a “the tools you need to answer the call” series.
- God expects us to get the job done, but we can through His power!
- **2 Peter 1:3-11**
- What are the promises in these verses?
- Does this happen automatically?
 - o Make every effort – **verse 5** This is available, but we have to make every effort to attain it.
- **This Week: Knowledge**
- Let’s put this in context. Reread **2 Peter 1:2, 3, and 8**.
 - o So, this is about knowing God and knowing God’s ways.
 - o This is very different from just knowing Christian trivia or just knowing how to fit in to your church or Christian group.
- We are essentially looking at the concept of our previous series “Unlocking Freedom” from **John 8:31-32**.
 - o Problem: people sometimes miss God and God’s ways but catch Christian trivia and catch the rules for fitting in. Have you experience or seen that?
 - Jesus mentions this dynamic in **Luke 11:52** and **Matthew 23:13**.
 - Seems harsh, but leaders need to lead people to Christ!
 - Don’t play the victim and just blame the “dead” church. **Matthew 6:22-23**. See the real.
- The list in 2 Peter 1 is a loose progression I believe, and also I see three categories: building, protecting, maturing. Goodness is part of building. Too many people try to start at step 4 rather than step 1.
 - o Tell the Rat Park experiment. (If you weren’t there Google it.)
 - Doing faith, goodness, knowledge is building the Rat Park in your life.
 - Too many believers are sitting in the boring cage trying not to drink the drug water for fear of going to hell. What a miserable life! (that is skipping to self-control w/o the first three)
 - Then protecting the beautiful God things in your life through self-control and perseverance will make a lot more sense!!
- Give examples of building the God thing from the following verses:
 - o **2 Timothy 3:14-17** (Faith in the Bible.)
 - When I made the choice to trust the Scriptures, my life really changed!
 - o **1 Corinthians 12:12-13** and **Hebrews 10:25** (Faith in the Body of Christ)
 - My early years I didn’t trust Christian people.
 - There are still hypocrites, goofy people, and ones who don’t get it. But that’s ok.
 - But it is clear that all believers are called to be part of the church.
 - Now, I have a great role in the Body!
 - o **Ephesians 5:33** (Faith in Christian Marriage)
 - Tranette and I had a disaster of a relationship years ago.
 - Putting faith, goodness, and knowledge into Eph 5:33 has made all of the difference!!
- One last thought. How do **Proverbs 1:7** and (**Luke 12:4-5**) fit in to this?
 - o Fearing the Lord is the beginning of knowledge and wisdom.
 - We must take God very very seriously. Reverence, awe, worship.
 - When you reject or opposed God there is much to fear.
 - o But the fear of the Lord is not the end of knowledge. **1 John 4:16-18**
 - Faith and Goodness bring us to the Knowledge that we are loved by God and no longer need to fear.
 - o Put your faith in God. Walk in his ways. Then you can be secure in the love of God!!
 - o Pray for each other before you finish up!