

Vital Mastery

"... The excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have it." *Ecclesiastes 7:12.*

"Jesus, the loving Saviour, entreats the woe-stricken inhabitants of earth to come to Him. He says: 'Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.' Oh, have you found this rest? Have you been to the fountain of living water to drink? The knowledge of God is the most vital to you. Have you found it? Jesus says: 'As Thou hast given Him power over all flesh that He should give eternal life to as many as Thou hast given Him.' 'And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.' The evidence of our knowledge of God and of His Son is seen in the fact that we reveal Him in life and character, that we make Him known unto others." *-Signs of the Times, June 19, 1893.*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2024

1. In whom alone is one to believe?

2 TIMOTHY 1:12 *For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.*

"We should know for ourselves what constitutes Christianity, what is truth, what is the faith that we have received, what are the Bible rules—the rules given us from the highest authority." *-Mind, Character, and Personality, vol. 2, p. 535.*

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2024

2. What shows that a person knows God?

1 JOHN 2:3 *And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.*

"Hand yourself over to Jesus, to be molded and fashioned by Him, that you may be made vessels unto honor. Your temptations, your ideas, your feelings, must all be laid at the foot of the cross. Then the soul is ready to listen to words of divine instruction." *-Mind, Character, and Personality, vol. 2, p. 541.*

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2024

3. What assurance must one have?

1 JOHN 2:5 *But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.*

"Every good impulse or aspiration is the gift of God; faith receives from God the life that alone can produce true growth and efficiency." -*Gospel Workers*, p. 259.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2024

4. What is the evidence of this?

JOHN 15:4 *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*

"To the heart that has become purified, all is changed. Transformation of character is the testimony to the world of an indwelling Christ. The Spirit of God produces a new life in the soul, bringing the thoughts and desires into obedience to the will of Christ; and the inward man is renewed in the image of God. Weak and erring men and women show to the world that the redeeming power of grace can cause the faulty character to develop into symmetry and abundant fruitfulness." -*Prophets and Kings*, p. 233.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2024

5. What knowledge regarding God directly influences the soul?

1 JOHN 2:29 *If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.*

"Those who are indeed purifying their souls by obeying the truth will have a most humble opinion of themselves. The more closely they view the spotless character of Christ, the stronger will be their desire to be conformed to His image, and the less will they see of purity or holiness in themselves. But while we should realize our sinful condition, we are to rely upon Christ as our righteousness, our sanctification, and our redemption." -*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 471.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2024

6. What effect does this have on every child of God?

JOHN 3:5, 6 *Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*

"When hearts are purified from selfishness and egotism, they are in harmony with the message God sends them. The perceptions are quickened, the sensibilities refined. Like appreciates like. 'He that is of God heareth God's words.'" -*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 695.

SABBATH, NOVEMBER 23, 2024

7. What powerful thought is a great motivator to the believers?

1 JOHN 3:2 *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

“Looking unto Jesus we obtain brighter and more distinct views of God, and by beholding we become changed. Goodness, love for our fellow men, becomes our natural instinct. We develop a character which is the counterpart of the divine character. Growing into His likeness, we enlarge our capacity for knowing God. More and more we enter into fellowship with the heavenly world, and we have continually increasing power to receive the riches of the knowledge and wisdom of eternity.” -*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 355.

MEDITATION

“‘The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.’ Proverbs 1:7. One sentence of Scripture is of more value than ten thousand of man’s ideas or arguments. Those who refuse to follow God’s way will finally receive the sentence, ‘Depart from Me.’ But when we submit to God’s way, the Lord Jesus guides our minds and fills our lips with assurance. We may be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Receiving Christ, we are clothed with power. An indwelling Saviour makes His power our property. The truth becomes our stock in trade. No unrighteousness is seen in the life. We are able to speak words in season to those who know not the truth. Christ’s presence in the heart is a vitalizing power, strengthening the entire being.” -*Counsels on Health*, p. 253.