

## A Good Understanding

Psalms 111:10 (NKJV): 10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever.

When God is providing us with the knowledge of His word, and we become aware of our sinfulness. It is in that painful, fitful state we yearn to be at rest—at peace with God—but it's in that state we make our most earnest plea and cling to the comfort of hope that wells up in the belief that Jesus has paid the penalty for our sins.

Proverbs 2:1–4 (NKJV): 1 My son, if you receive my words, And treasure my commands within you, 2 So that you incline your ear to wisdom, And apply your heart to understanding; 3 Yes, if you cry out for discernment, And lift up your voice for understanding, 4 If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures;

We want to know. We want assurance we are at peace with God and faith alone in Jesus' sacrifice of Himself is where we enter reconciliation with God.

So we focus on, give our attention fully to His word until it registers and a response of acceptance is coaxed out.

Romans 6:23 (NKJV): 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Proverbs 2:5 (NKJV): 5 Then you will understand the fear of the Lord, And find the knowledge of God.

...And that is the pattern for growth to maturity:

>Taking in the knowledge of God's word

>Seeing our weaknesses

>Being humbled by our inability to overcome on our own

>Yearning for the life of Christ to be manifested in us

>Believing that it will be as we continue, abide, as branches of The Vine

Knowledge

Genesis 2:15–17 (NKJV): 15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden **to tend and keep it**. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

**2 Peter 1:2** Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,

Deuteronomy 30:11–16 (NKJV): 11 “For this commandment which I command you today is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off. 12 It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ 13 Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ 14 But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.

**2 Peter 1:3** as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

15 “See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, 16 in that I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the Lord your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess.

**2 Peter 1:4** by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Romans 10:6–9 (NKJV): 6 But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down from above) 7 or, “ ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). 8 But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

**Deuteronomy 30:17–31:1** (NKJV): 17 But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them, 18 I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess.

2 Peter 1:5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,

**Deuteronomy 30:19** I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;

2 Peter 1:6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness,

**Deuteronomy 30:20** that you may love the Lord your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.”

2 Peter 1:7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.

**Deuteronomy 30:1** Then Moses went and spoke these words to all Israel.

2 Peter 1:8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

Deuteronomy 6:5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

Matthew 22:34–40 (NKJV): 34 But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. 35 Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, 36 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” 37 Jesus said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and great

commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’  
40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

Leviticus 19:10–18 (NKJV):

>10 And you shall not glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather every grape of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger: I am the Lord your God.

>11 ‘You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor lie to one another.

>12 And you shall not swear by My name falsely, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I am the Lord.

>13 ‘You shall not cheat your neighbor, nor rob him. The wages of him who is hired shall not remain with you all night until morning.

>14 You shall not curse the deaf, nor put a stumbling block before the blind, but shall fear your God: I am the Lord.

>15 ‘You shall do no injustice in judgment. You shall not be partial to the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty. In righteousness you shall judge your neighbor.

>16 You shall not go about as a talebearer among your people; nor shall you take a stand against the life of your neighbor: I am the Lord.

>17 ‘You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him.

>18 You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

In all of these commands it’s talking of love for your neighbor, even reverencing God for our neighbor’s sake.

Matthew 5:43–6:1 (NKJV): 43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor **and hate your enemy.**’ 44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who

curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? 48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect. 6 “Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

### **And hate your enemy.?’:**

Deuteronomy 23:3–6 (NKJV): 3 “An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter the assembly of the Lord; even to the tenth generation none of his descendants shall enter the assembly of the Lord forever, 4 because they did not meet you with bread and water on the road when you came out of Egypt, and because they hired against you Balaam the son of Beor from Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse you. 5 Nevertheless the Lord your God would not listen to Balaam, but the Lord your God turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the Lord your God loves you. 6 You shall not seek their peace nor their prosperity all your days forever.

1 John 2:7–12 (NKJV): 7 Brethren, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. —The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning—Lev19:10-18.

8 Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining. -John13:34–  
9 He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. 10 He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. 11 But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes. 12 I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name’s sake.

John 13:34–35 (NKJV): 34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

1 John 3:23 (NKJV): 23 And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.

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