

May you constantly be getting more of the peace that God wants you to have in your heart. That is his prayer for those to whom he writes. That should be our prayer for one another. That we should grow in the grace of God, but that we should also more and more have the peace of God in our hearts.

Then he says, "through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord." How do we get this grace and peace? Well, we get it through prayer of course. We pray to God for it. But the special means that God has given for receiving it is through getting more knowledge about God and about Jesus our Lord. The English here is a bit ambiguous. The knowledge of God means what God knows, or what we know about God. It could mean either one. Here I think it is quite clear it means what we know about God. God wants us to increase our knowledge of the Triune God. Increase our knowledge of Jesus our Lord.

If you don't know any more about God now than you did 20 yrs. ago, if you don't know any more about Jesus Christ than you did when you were first saved, I really begin to wonder whether you really were saved in the first place. The one who is saved is like a little babe who is growing - born, and he needs milk, the sincere ~~mix~~ milk of the Word. He needs to study God's Word and learn more about God. Thus as he gains more knowledge about God and the Lord Jesus Christ grace and peace are multiplied.

Sometimes you see Christians who are sorrowful and gloomy all the time. They don't have the peace of God in their hearts. They may be true Christians, they may be earnest Christians. But they don't have the blessings they should have, because if you really know God you will know that He wants us to have peace and joy whatever happens. We certainly should have it if we realize what he's done for us. If we realize that every step we take in life God ~~knew~~ knew in advance. God planned, God directs. God sends nothing into our lives except in accordance with His will and for His own purposes.

Why do you think God has put us here in the first place? God has a purpose for every one of us here. He may have a purpose for the work we are to do. He certainly does. He has things He has things He wants each one of us to do in making Him better known; things he wants each one of us to do in helping other Christians. But beyond that I believe that the very purpose of our creation, the purpose of our being saved is in order that we might be developed and moulded and built into the type that God wants us to be.

When troubles come into our lives, when difficulties come, when matters come we cannot understand we can know God has a purpose in it. Now if they come through our fault, as they often do, part of the purpose may be to teach us lessons through it. Part of the purpose may be to rebuke us for mistakes we have made in the past. But there is no reason to keep sorrowing over mistakes we've made in the past. God uses even those mistakes for our good and for His glory. So the true Christian should have peace in his heart.