

*"Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. **Knowledge puffeth up**, but charity edifieth. And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know. But if any man love God, the same is known of Him." 1 Corinthians 8:1-3 KJV*

A grain of puffed rice has no more substance than a grain of rice. It just looks bigger by virtue of the air used to puff it. It even loses some of its nutritional value in the process. On the other hand, if boiled, rice not only retains its nutrients, it absorbs the nature and character of the water, and becomes highly useful. The same is true of knowledge. Knowledge is more useful if processed with wisdom. Knowing how to do something is not the same as doing it. A ten year old may know how to drive a car, but is incapable of doing so. For example: you may know how and why the gas pedal is pushed, but knowing when, how much, and how long, is an entirely different matter. Knowledge coupled with wisdom of patient experience is applied by the mechanic during repair and the driver during operation: Same knowledge, multiple applications. Many do not know the difference between a need and a want. They presume that if the lack of something disturbs their comfort it is a need. Eating beans and rice may upset my comfort with eating steak, but my need is supplied nonetheless. I may WANT many things, but God says, *"Having food and raiment, therewith be content."* Once the knowledge of God's promises is processed with the wisdom and experience of needs supplied, peace ensues. *"For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, 'Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.'" You don't understand need until you have nothing. Gideon had 30,000 troops to go into battle against an enemy that covered the earth like grasshoppers, but once he understood that Jehovah was fighting for him, he only NEEDED 300. I'd rather have God as my Guardian, than the Federal Reserve as my finances. Are you "walking in the Spirit" or just puffed up? Do you know a lot ABOUT God or do you walk a lot WITH God: Obeying the Voice of Truth in your thoughts by virtue of having studied God's Word? If you think your way is better than God's way, you are your own god! "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" Whatever thought determines your deed, it manifests your God. "Many...are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly...who mind earthly things." Is what YOU desire or what GOD desires the measure of your deeds? If God is your guide, you will not fall! My Lord knows the way; all I have to do is follow. No map can replace a guide. No amount of knowledge can replace obedience. Truth tells me how and when to act.*



Knowledge puffs with foolish pride,
The men who think to put aside,
Commands of God that will abide,
And they in torment will reside. ~CGP

"What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" If you would know God, learn and obey His Word. "And hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep (obey) His commandments. The entrance of Thy Words giveth...understanding unto the simple." Is your faith "say so," or "know so?"

"Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works (obedience) is dead?" James 2:19-20 KJV