

STRENGTH 2: GRIT WITH SMARTS

BUILT FOR IMPACT SERIES

*For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; **and to goodness, knowledge;** and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. – 2 Peter 1:5-8*

GRIT WITHOUT SMARTS IS JUST NOISE

You ever meet a guy who works hard, but keeps hitting the same wall over and over again? All effort, no adjustment. Like a weightlifter using terrible form — getting nowhere fast, just wearing himself out.

Peter's second building block for impact is *knowledge*. Not head knowledge that puffs up — but practical, spiritual insight that helps you live wisely and effectively. The kind of man who's not just tough, but strategic. Not just busy, but fruitful.

Faith gives us identity. Goodness gives us character. But knowledge gives us clarity — how to live in a way that honors God and helps others.

This isn't about being a Bible trivia champ or quoting Greek. It's about learning to think like Jesus. To become a man who isn't led by emotion, fear, or culture — but by truth.

THE MIND OF CHRIST

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...”

– Romans 12:2

“We have the mind of Christ.” – 1 Corinthians 2:16

Peter's not asking us to be academic — he's calling us to *be awake*. To tune into truth instead of defaulting to instincts or assumptions. When you add knowledge, you're choosing to stop winging it and start living with purpose and understanding.

A man who never stops learning is a man who never stops growing.

AT WORK: KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DOING – AND WHY

In your job, you wouldn't wing a presentation without prep. You'd study your product. Your competition. Your numbers. So why do so many men wing it when it comes to their faith, marriage, parenting, or personal habits?

Adding knowledge means you ask deeper questions:

- Why do I react that way?
- What lies am I believing?
- How does God want me to handle this situation?

It's the difference between a man who blows up in a meeting — and one who reads the room, listens, and speaks with wisdom. One lives by impulse. The other by insight.

God wants you to be *both strong and smart* — tough with a teachable spirit.

GENERAL EISENHOWER'S D-DAY PLANNING

Before launching the largest amphibious invasion in history, Eisenhower didn't just rally the troops. He studied everything — from weather patterns to beach terrain, enemy placements to moonlight levels.

He knew the cost of ignorance. He knew a reckless move could cost thousands of lives.

Men of impact do their homework. They pray, prepare, and plan — and they're humble enough to keep learning.

Adding knowledge means you don't act like you know it all. It means you're teachable — because the more you grow in knowledge, the more you realize how much you still need to learn.

CHALLENGE QUESTIONS

- Q. Where in your life have you stopped learning or growing?
- Q. Who do you go to for wise counsel when you're stuck?
- Q. Are your daily choices guided more by emotion, culture, or truth?

SCRIPTURAL CROSS-REFERENCES

- Proverbs 4:7 – *“The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.”*
- Colossians 1:9–10 – *“...that you may live a life worthy of the Lord... growing in the knowledge of God.”*
- Hosea 4:6 – *“My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge.”*

PRAYER

God, grow in me a desire to know You more deeply — not just so I can be right, but so I can live wisely. Help me to seek truth over convenience, and understanding over opinion. Teach me to think like Jesus in every part of my life.

TAKEAWAY SUMMARY

A man who adds knowledge to his faith doesn't just act — he understands. He doesn't just respond — he discerns. He asks questions, listens for God's voice, and lives like he's building something that matters.

THIS WEEK'S ACTION STEP

Identify an area of your life where you've been “winging it” — maybe your marriage, finances, spiritual leadership, or emotional control. Choose one **truth-based resource** to help you grow this week: a Scripture passage, a wise mentor, or a book. Pursue it. Apply it. Share what you're learning.

KNOWLEDGE

Growing in wisdom and professional competence. Gaining practical insight through experience, reflection, and learning — then applying it with discernment.