2 Peter 1:5-8, called "Summer Tool Box".

**Knowledge & Self-control.**

**Knowledge**

Proverbs 10:14 Wise men store up knowledge.

1. Knowledge of God.

2. Knowledge of God’s word.

3. Knowledge generally.

Knowledge kind of like the thing with a lot of drawers. You never know when you will want to use it.

I think this sort of thing takes two things:

A. A real and absolute commitment.

B. Hard work. (sounds like repentance and discipleship!)

1. **Love God with all your mind.** Luke 10:27 Think. Ask questions. Keep a list of difficult questions and do the research until you find those answers.

Do not be lazy intellectually. Desire to take it deeper. Heb 5:11-15

A lot of us use up our mental energy at work…. Or maybe when we get home with the family.

Always be prepared to give an answer….

2. **Develop David’s Psalm 119 attitude**.

Psalm 119:97 Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long.

Psalm 119:72 The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of gold and silver.

Psalm 119:9 How can a young person keep himself pure? By living according to your word.

3. For myself…. **Have a sense of adventure**. Teach someone…. Write a lesson. Get a commentary…. Think about things you are not naturally prone to think about.

For me, this is the biggest key. It is key in the marriage analogy.

Be open-minded so you can be closed-minded.

Do NOT assume that what you were raised with spiritually is true.

But do not be so open-minded that your brains fall out. Remember those things which are definitely true so that you do not step on land-mines.

Why do we do such and such?

4. **Have a plan**. Plan for variety. Keep a journal. Keep track of your progress.

a. Just read. (Chronological Bible, read Bible in a year, different translations)

b. Deep involved study of a book.

c. Study out a particular doctrine in detail. (grace vs. works, predestination)

d. Side reading: history, science, philosophy, other religions.

Understand: The Bible is an incredibly deep well. You are learning about God. Be humble please. Do you realize how deep a well you are plumbing?

5. **Practicals.**

a. Memorize scripture. Learn locations. Make your own outlines of books.

b. Learn how to study the Bible (hermeneutics) Develop those skills.

(Fee: How to Study the Bible for all it’s Worth.)

**Self-Control**

Add to your knowledge self-control. Without self-control, your knowledge will not be productive (v. 8)

Self-control is like a **torque wrench**. The more self-control, the more work you can do for God.

2 Timothy 1:7 God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but one of power, love and self-control. If we will listen, the Holy Spirit will prompt us to not go there, to not buy that, to not flip to that channel or go to that web site.

But, will you listen? Will you heed that voice?

Self control is like the **gasoline additive**. It is what makes everything work so much better.

Proverbs 16:32 Better is a patient person than a warrior, one with self-control than one who takes a city.

How much talent is wasted by lack of self-control? How much will you be used by God? Does it depend principally on your gifts? No!!!! On your self-control.

Knowledge is like the weapon, but without self-control, you cannot wield the weapon effectively.

On the other hand,

Proverbs 25:28 Like a city whose walls are broken through is a person who lacks self-control.

For me: Running every week for 26 years.

I have taken one sick day in 33 years of working.

John: How do you do so many things—writing books, traveling, web site, professor, lead Bible group, shepherd singles, run Christian evidences ministry, put on annual conferences, maintain Christian evidence web site….

My answer: self-control.

You can probably make it to heaven without self-control, but life will be so much more fulfilling if you have it.

Finish: Hebrews 5:12-14 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

This verse combines the charge to grow in knowledge and training ourselves to avoid evil and to do good (self-control)