In the beginning, when you are learning Linux, it seems like a hodge-podge of commands. You learn ls, pwd, and a dozen more commands. Then your brain asks you "Now what?" You are staring at a terminal with no purpose in mind.

When I learned Linux the first time, I had a particular reason in mind. I wanted to create a web server on Amazon AWS. First I had to figure out how to log into the server: that is what led me to ssh. Then I had to learn how to install software on the server, which led me to learn about yum and rpm. Then I had to configure the server, which forced me to learn VIM. You get the picture.

Find something you want to accomplish with a server and then everything you learn becomes purposeful. Putting up a web server or FTP server are great choices in the beginning, but it can be anything that keeps you motivated to get through the material.