

FREEDOM'S GATE

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To Know

Do you know that you know that you KNOW??? I've heard that question asked many times at New and Living Way meetings. I learned something about the word KNOW that has helped me understand some of the familiar passages of scripture a little better. Maybe what I learned would be helpful to you as well.

In Colossians 1:9&10, the Apostle Paul prays that we will be "filled with the knowledge of His (God's) will..." and that we will "be fruitful...increasing in the knowledge of God." In Ephesians 3:19, he prays that we will "know the love of Christ that **surpasses knowledge**." It is obvious that Holy Spirit wants us to know the Father and the Son. As I pondered this, I asked myself the question, "Do I really know what it means to KNOW?" That question caused me to do some research that has proved to be helpful to me.

I am not an exceptional Greek scholar, but I can read and I do know how to use reference materials. So I started my search in the Strong's concordance. There I discovered that the New Testament has at least 24 different Greek words that are all translated into some form of the word "to know" in the King James Version of the Bible. I realized that there was a great deal I did not know about knowing!!

Let's look at the scriptures to see how the different meanings of the word "know" impact how we understand what God is communicating to us. In Ephesians 3:19, Paul prays that we will "know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge." I found that the word translated "know" in this passage is the Greek word *ginosko*. (Strong's number 1097). *Ginosko*, according to Vine's ([Vine's Dictionary of New Testament Words](#)), means to come to a progressive recognition of some information. It indicates a relationship between the person knowing and the thing known. It is knowledge received, not by mere intellectual activity, but by revelation. We could say that *ginosko* means to receive a truth by personal encounter or experience with the source; i.e. revealed truth; truth that you know is true because you have intimately experienced that truth personally. Been there, done that kind of truth. The Apostle Paul is praying that we will personally and intimately experience the love of Christ. That's the kind of "knowing" that we can never be talked out of. When I've *ginosko*-ed something, I know that I know that I KNOW!!



In the same verse (Ephesians 3:19), the word that is translated knowledge appears to be similar to *ginosko* but has a very different meaning. That word is *gnosis* (Strong's number 1108) and according to [Vine's Dictionary](#) means a seeking to know, an inquiry or investigation. [The Complete Word Study Dictionary](#) says the word indicates present and fragmentary knowledge. It is used to indicate the unfolding of intellectual or scientific knowledge. We could say that it means information learned by discovery and the study of facts – head knowledge. This is the kind of information that was taught in school back in the old days when we had the "Reading, Writing, Arithmetic" thing going on. In this passage, Paul is making the point that knowing the love of Christ requires that it is revealed to you and that you have personally experienced it. This revealed knowledge "surpasses" the information you have learned by the study of facts – intellectual learning. Revealed truth surpasses intellectual information. *Ginosko* surpasses *gnosis*.

In a related passage, the Apostle Paul uses words that are translated into some form of "to know" six times in two verses. The passage seems a little confusing until you understand the different meanings Paul was trying to communicate with the Greek words he chose. The passage is found in 1 Corinthians 8:1&2. "...We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies. And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know." (NKJV) Just a little bit confusing

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the Foreknowledge of God

1 Peter 1:2: "...Elect according to the *foreknowledge* of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ."

Before Adam and Eve ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, they walked in "the foreknowledge of God." Since they were made in His image they were just like God – they had His nature, His attributes, they had no knowledge of good and evil; they knew only God and His foreknowledge.

Foreknowledge is a word that is used only twice in the Bible and is attributed to God, the Father. In Strong's concordance it means: forethought, foresee, to know beforehand and comes from the root word *ginosko*. We can see from Paul Metzger's article "To Know" that this is revealed truth and it comes from having relationship with the source. We call it revelation!

Adam and Eve walked in revelation knowledge. They experienced this "to know that you know that you know" all the time. Let me explain a little deeper how this worked in their lives. If Adam and Eve had a desire for something (and since they only knew God, their desires lined up with Him and His word), then that *desire* signaled to them that it was available to them. Perhaps they had never experienced it; the desire told them it was still there for the asking and receiving.

Upon reflecting about the foreknowledge of God one day, I began pondering about what the difference was in foreknowledge and the knowledge that came with the tree of good and evil. This word knowledge means: cunning, ignorantly, unaware, *to know by seeing*, care, diligent, have understanding, etc. It is similar to another word Paul used in his writing – *gnosis*. You need to find the knowledge and then figure out how to make it work. It is interesting that the first word for knowledge is *cunning*. This word means crafty and crafty means you have a special skill or ability. In other words, you make it happen!

When Adam and Eve ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, they took on another nature. They lost their

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Upcoming Bible Studies

Ladies Bible Study:
Tuesdays, 10:00 - 11:30 AM
September 30 – November 18, 2008
Home of Rosemary Rhodes
1423 S. Lakeshore Dr., Albion, IN
260-636-7778 or 260-349-0798

Ladies Bible Study:
Wednesdays, 12:00 - 1:30 PM
October 1 - November 19, 2008
Home of Joe & Anne Pranger
10188 N 1000 E, Kendallville IN
260-349-0928

Life Bridge Church:
Wednesdays, 7:00 - 8:30 PM
October 1 - November 19, 2008

Home Fellowship:
Tuesdays, 7:00 - 9:00 PM
October 7 - November 25, 2008
Home of Joe & Anne Pranger
10188 N 1000 E, Kendallville IN

Contact our office with any questions.
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awareness of foreknowledge and now began to function on the knowledge that came with this tree. Everything from working, to relationships to raising a family, etc. was toil and sweat! Work, work, work! Will there ever be any “Rest” from this?

Praise God! Relief came! Finally the Tree of Life – JESUS! When you were born again, you died out of the Adam race and were born into the Jesus race. The old man who lived by the tree of knowledge of good and evil died and now you live by the *foreknowledge of God!*

The days of “toil and sweat” are over. The “Rest” of God has come for you. You don’t need to figure your own way anymore. You have the foreknowledge of God on the inside of you. The desires and plans of God are already done for you. If the desire is there and it is in the Word, then it is possible for you. Stop saying things are impossible! Even if you have never seen it in your realm, God wants you to know it is possible, because He is the God of POSSIBILITIES, not IMPOSSIBILITIES! He made you – those desires are from Him and He wants you to experience His goodness and love He has for you.

Now let me clarify some things here. I am not saying that you should sit around and do nothing. No, if you have a job, you need to go to work; if you are a mom, you need to care for your children; if you are a wife or husband, you need to minister to your spouse. But stop “seeing” (remember that knowledge is based on what you “see”) that everything depends on you. Do these things joyfully and the best you can, but start operating in the foreknowledge of God.

How do you do that? Simple! Start saying what God says. Romans 4:17 says God gives life to the dead and calls things that do not exist as though they did. Jesus said “It is finished.” Speak the finished work. He died not only for your sins, but your failures as well. Quit beating yourself up because you blew it. God’s first man Adam blew it too, but what did God do? He killed an animal and made a coat of skins for Adam and Eve (first blood sacrifice – Genesis 3:21). Then He just started prophesying through people about a coming Redeemer. Well, follow the example of your heavenly Father. Where you missed it, plead the blood and start speaking the Word!

In closing, I would like to share a quick testimony about foreknowledge. A few weeks ago, a young woman came for teaching. I had shared with her all day and that evening we drove to Shipshewana for some good Amish cooking. We were just parking and she told me she had not had her “aha” (light switch on) moment yet. On the way home, I started sharing about knowledge and foreknowledge and suddenly she got her “aha” moment. The foreknowledge thing clicked with her. A couple of weeks later, I was with another friend and the same thing happened.

So I declare that as you read this month’s articles on “knowing” that you will experience an “aha” moment!

~ Anne Pranger

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in English isn’t it? Let’s see what putting in the meanings of the Greek words does for our understanding of the passage.

“We know (*eido* – Strong’s 1492: *be aware of, perceive, understand*) that we all have knowledge (*gnosis* – *intellectual, scientific, learned by study*). Knowledge (*gnosis* – *learned by study*) puffs up, but love edifies. And if anyone thinks that he knows (*eido* – *be aware of, perceive, to understand*) anything, he knows (*ginosko* – *revealed truth*) nothing yet as he ought to know (*ginosko* – *revealed truth*).” So my understanding of this passage now becomes, “We understand that we have learned everything we can by study. Things we learn by studying cause us to puff up in pride, but love builds others up. You see, if anyone thinks that he understands something because he has learned about it by studying, he doesn’t really have revealed truth on the matter yet as he ought to have.” Now that makes a lot more sense to me!!

Let’s go look at the Colossians 1:9&10 passage in the New King James Version. “For this reason we also, since the day we heard of it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.” Both times the word knowledge appears in this passage, it is the Greek word *epignosis* (Strong’s number 1922), which according to The Complete Word Study Dictionary, expresses a thorough participation in the acquiring of knowledge on the part of the learner. Vine’s indicates a special recognition of the object known which perfectly unites the subject with the object, full discernment, to become fully acquainted with. So if we use the meaning of the word then we might understand the passage this way: “For this reason we also, since the day we heard of it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may fully participate in acquiring the discernment of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord,

fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the ability to recognize God and be united with Him.”

The conclusion we come to after this brief study is that there are two basic kinds of knowing. One is a knowing because I have collected information, studied it, learned the facts and now have formed an opinion about what is truth. This is a form of knowing that is impacted by the opinions and assumptions I bring to the learning process. The “truth” that I conclude from this kind of

knowing is very subject to error and can easily lead me into deception, believing a lie. This learned knowledge often leads to pride because of the effort I have put into the acquiring of it. When it does not line up perfectly with what someone else “knows” it often becomes a source of discussion and argument that does not edify anyone and even leads to division.

The other kind of knowing we have seen is one that comes from personal intimate experience with the recognized source of the information. This is information that you did not learn by study, but received from the source. According to Paul in Ephesians 3:19, this revealed knowledge surpasses learned knowledge. According to 1 Corinthians 8:2, this kind of knowledge is the kind of knowledge we ought to have. In Colossians 1:9&10, this personal, discerning, fully acquainted with knowing, is the kind of knowledge Paul wants us to have of

God’s will and the kind of knowledge that He wants us to be increasing in.

I pray that you will ask God to give you more and more of this revealed knowledge of Himself and that you will know that you know that you KNOW!!! You are seated in your position IN HIM!!!

~ Paul Metzger

