

## Knowing

*“knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver and gold”*

**1 Peter 1:18**

**Knowing**—There are several Greek words for “know.” One is *ginosko*. It is a word that means knowledge that comes from experience. This is knowledge that we gather from living, observing and testing. This knowledge comes through the process of education. That is why the cult of secret knowledge was called the Gnostics. It was a cult that educated its followers with secrets about how to live.

Another Greek word is *oida*. This is the word used in this verse. It has a different implication about knowing. This is knowledge that comes intuitively. It is not pieced together slowly by gathering information. It comes complete. It is a fully formed insight, a personal revelation.

Peter tells us that the knowledge of our redemption is not something that we learn slowly over time by gathering evidence. God reveals it to us, completely, all at once in the moment of our forgiveness. You are not redeemed by some slow education process. You are redeemed by a step-by-step ritual or confirmation or catechism. You are redeemed all at once, completely, by God’s direct intervention. And you know it intuitively. It is a fact of your existence from that point on.

When people who don’t believe ask for evidence, they are focused on *ginosko*. There is a place for that kind of evidence. But your personal knowledge of God’s life-changing power is different. You might not be able to explain it, but you just know that it is real. You have *oida* knowledge. If you do not “know” the truth of your redemption in this way, you might want to examine yourself. *No one can be taught to be a Christian.* God does not educate us into redemption. He educates us *after* we are redeemed. Redemption is God intervening with power and conviction, creating a metamorphosis in our lives.

If your faith based on education or intervention? One is religion. The other is belief.