

## I. Know the Plan - 2 Peter 3:16-18: The Greek Concept of Knowledge

Three things are necessary as part of the grace process of problem solving:

1. Spiritual Inventory of Ideas. We have a spiritual IQ provided in grace ( $F/HS + HuIQ = SpIQ$ ). To this is added a Grace Apparatus for Perception which produces a Spiritual Inventory of Ideas ( $F/HS + HuIQ = SpIQ + GAP = SpII$ ).
2. Spiritual Thinking. Recall and consideration of the pertinent doctrines in your Spiritual Inventory which apply to your problem.
3. Spiritual Problem-Solving. The application of these pertinent doctrines under pressure.

Without understanding the principle that God solves problems through His grace policy, grace provision, and grace system, the believer will never successfully execute the Christian way of life.

Grace is the divine policy of providing us with a spiritual IQ, so that our human IQ is no longer an issue in the perception of divine thought.

The Grace Apparatus for Perception is the system by which we are enabled to understand God's thinking, God's plan, and God's purpose for our lives.

Grace is the divine policy by which we learn 10 problem-solving devices, so that we can resolve every problem in life from our own inventory of ideas.

The believer who fails to utilize this system or take advantage of its assets is described in Scripture as follows:

1. In Hebrews 12:15, such a believer “*comes short of the grace of God.*”
2. In 2 Corinthians 6:1, such a believer “*receives the grace of God in vain.*”
3. In Galatians 2:21, such a believer “*nullifies the grace of God.*”
4. In Galatians 5:4, such a believer is “*fallen [drifts off course] from grace.*”

2 Peter records the divine mandate to stay on course in:

**2 Peter 3:18 (Corrected Translation Version) Keep on growing in the sphere of grace.**

This is followed by another locative of sphere: *kai + gnosis* - “and in the sphere of knowledge”

The entire verse as far as we have gone reads this way in its corrected translation:

**2 Peter 3:18 (Corrected Translation Version) But keep on growing in the sphere of grace and in the sphere of knowledge.**

There are several words for knowledge in the Greek language. Two of them are significant with regard to the system established by God for the spiritual growth of the individual believer.

To properly understand the technical point made by Peter in this verse we must pause and do some work on the etymology of the words *gnosis* and *epignosis*.

## The Greek Concept of Knowledge

There are two Greek words for knowledge that we need to define:

- a. *gnosis*: a seeking to know; an inquiry or an investigation; knowledge of spiritual truth; knowledge of scientific data.
- b. *epignosis*: full knowledge; discernment; a strengthened form of *gnosis* which expresses an understanding which goes beyond that of *gnosis*.

There is a synonym to *epignosis* which appears in several important passages: *oida* - “full knowledge”

There is yet another Greek word for knowledge which we will consider only in the sense that it is the source of the English word “*epistemology*”: *episteme* - “to understand.”

- a. It is the source for the English word: epistemology
- b. The science that investigates the origin, the limits, and the validity of knowledge.

In actuality, the challenge of the Angelic Conflict is an exercise in epistemology.

The quest of the human soul is to identify truth and thus establish what is true from that which is false.

Thus, the search for truth and the rationales by which it is validated is called epistemology.

The Angelic Conflict is characterized by the effort of the human soul to discern from all the information which is available that portion which is truth.

God is the source of all truth and has made it available to us through His revelation in the Scripture.

He has set up a communication system by which the believer in Jesus Christ may learn divine truth and then utilize its inventory of ideas for decision making and problem solving.

This system of epistemology has been classified in our study as the Grace Apparatus for Perception.

On the other hand, Satan seeks to distort divine truth by presenting the lie within a package of deception.

Thus, he has teachers who knowingly or unknowingly dispense his lie while presenting it as if it were truth.

The secret to success in the pursuit of truth thus lies in which system of didactics one chooses to submit.

Didactics is an English word which finds its source in the Greek word *didaktikos*.

This word and its derivatives are used throughout the New Testament to define the grace system of epistemology and the Satanic system of epistemology.

For example, let’s note how the faculties of the Divine and Satanic Academies are identified by this word group in Scripture.

First of all, the Chancellor of the Divine Academy is identified in:

**John 14:26** - But the Helper, namely the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you [*didasko*: one who gives instruction; a teacher] all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

The Holy Spirit is said to use a divinely authorized system of didactics in:

**1 Corinthians 2:12** - We have not received the world's spirit [cosmic systems of perception such as rationalism or empiricism] but the human spirit from the source of God [the Holy Spirit] in order that we might have a permanent knowledge [*oida*: a synonym for epignosis or full knowledge] of things that have been graciously given to us by God.

**1 Corinthians 2:13** - which things [systematic theology] we [the Flag Apostles] also speak, not by teaching [*didaktos*: by means of the Satanic Academy's system of rationalism and empiricism] from the source of man's wisdom, but by teaching [*didaktos*: by means of the Divine Academy's system of grace] from the source of the Holy Spirit, bringing together spiritual truth [Bible doctrine] to a spiritual system [*pneumatikos*: in the neuter referring to a system, i.e., GAP].

The tenured faculty of the Satanic Academy is revealed in:

**1 Timothy 4:1** - But the Holy Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits [the demonic faculty of the Satanic Academy] and doctrines [*didaskalia*: the content of that which is taught] of demons.

One of the major productions of the Satanic Academy was a first century religion known as Gnosticism.