

# Epicurean substitute for prayer

Post by "Don" of November 11, 2022 at 7:48 AM

This part of the thread does seem to revolve around something like the Greek πιστεύω pisteuō, from which I thought - up until 30 seconds ago! - we got the word epistemology.

πιστεύω pisteuō

[Henry George Liddell, Robert Scott, A Greek-English Lexicon, πιστ-εύω](#)

Epistemology on the other hand:

Etymology Online: "theory of knowledge," 1856, coined by Scottish philosopher James F. Ferrier (1808-1864) from Greek episteme "knowledge, acquaintance with (something), skill, experience," from Ionic Greek epistasthai "know how to do, understand," literally "overstand," from epi "over, near" (see epi-) + histasthai "to stand," from PIE root \*sta- "to stand, make or be firm."

Etymology from ἐπί (epí) + ἵστημι (hístēmi)

[Henry George Liddell, Robert Scott, An Intermediate Greek-English Lexicon, ἐπίσταμαι](#)

So, epistemology seems to conjure up for me that idea of the Epicureans being "dogmatic" in that they were "making a stand" They were willing to take a firm position as opposed to remaining forever skeptical and puzzled.

btw, I like that word "overstand"! I think I would much rather overstand something than understand it 😊