

The Power of His Resurrection

Phil 3:8-11

8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.
NKJV

The letter to the Philippians is probably the most personal letter that Paul writes. He has a special fondness for them and they for him. Here he is not afraid to tell them of his struggles and his former life.

Paul had been a very religious man in the Jewish faith. He also was an important man among the Jews. He led the effort to drive the Christians out of Jerusalem and then drive them to extinction. He had prided himself in his Jewish accomplishments. But when he met Jesus all that changed. Those things that he had greatly valued before were now only garbage. And even though this letter is one of his last, yet in all his life, he had never once again returned to those cast-away values.

Instead, Paul and continued to pursue that which at first had pursued him, the knowledge of Jesus Christ. And still, after many years he has this burning desire to know the Lord even more.

To know Him not only intellectually but also experimentally. John 14:8 Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip?"

Philip had spent over three years with Jesus and still did not know Him like he needed to. And this is important because Jesus tells us that it is in knowing Him, really knowing Him that a person will find eternal life. John 17:3 "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."

Paul's desire to know Jesus goes far beyond intellectual or academic. His desire is to know Him to the point that Paul embraces all of Jesus. Not just the knowing about Jesus but the desire to be like Him. To desire what He desires to love what He loves, to hate what He hates, to have His mission in life to be ours, and to bring all of our very being into conformity to Him.

So Paul desires, "that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection" and so should we.

But what does this mean? What would it look like? How can we have it?

- I. This Resurrection Power was Real and Undeniable
 - A. It was supernatural
 - 1. There is no explanation of the resurrection other than God.
 - 2. The disciples did not steal the body.
 - 3. The women did not go to the wrong tomb.
 - 4. Neither the Romans nor the Jews moved the body.
 - 5. Jesus did not swoon in the tomb.
 - B. It was a real resurrection
 - 1. The body that Jesus was crucified with was raised with the scars of that cross.
 - 2. It was no magic trick where God changed Judas for Jesus.
 - 3. It was the reality of it all that amazed the disciples.
 - 4. Jesus was raised with a physical body.
 - a. He ate the fish and honeycomb.
 - b. He said touch me.
 - C. In 2000 years no one has been able to give a plausible explanation.
- II. Resurrection Power is still available today.
 - A. Eph 1:19 and **what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe**, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated *Him* at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.
 - B. It is God's mighty power that raises us from among the spiritually dead.
 - 1. Joh 5:21 "For as the **Father raises the dead and gives life to them**, even so the Son gives life to whom He will. 22 "For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, 23 "that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. 24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. 25 "Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when

the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live.

2. God quickens us while we are dead in trespasses and sins and gives us new birth.
3. Ephesians 2:1-6 (NKJV) **1** And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, **2** in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, **3** among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. **4** But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, **5** even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), **6** and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
4. 2 Co 4:6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, **who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God** in the face of Jesus Christ.

III. That same power works in His people yet today.

A. The power to change our lives

1. Col 3:1 **If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.**

B. Power to give us hope

C. Power to keep us faithful

1. Now unto Him who is able to keep us from falling.

D. Power to lift us up when we are down.

E. Power to take us through the valley of the shadow of death.

IV. It is the same power that will one day raise our mortal bodies from the grave.

- A. **Ro 8:10 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.**

Tell story of Mel Trotter

This power and virtue the apostle had had an experience of, yet he wanted to feel more of it, in exciting the graces of the spirit to a lively exercise, in raising his affections, and setting them on things above, and in engaging him to seek after them, and set light by things on earth, and in causing him to walk in newness of life, in likeness or imitation of Christ's resurrection, to all which that strongly animates and encourages; see [#Col 3:1,2](#) [Ro 6:4,5](#). Gill

The apostle was as ambitious of being sanctified as he was of being justified. He was as desirous to know the power of Christ's death and resurrection killing sin in him, and raising him up to newness of life, as he was to receive the benefit of Christ's death and resurrection in his justification. Henry

Paul wanted to know *the power of his resurrection*. The power of the Holy Spirit that brought Jesus back from the dead is available to all believers to raise them from spiritual death now (Ephesians 1:19-20) and from their physical death in the future (Romans 8:11). Paul wanted to know this power, personally and experientially, for that power assures Christians of their justification (Romans 4:25; 1 Corinthians 15:17) and of their regeneration as they identify with Christ in resurrection (Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12; 3:1, 10). LAB Commentary

Title: The Bible Knowledge Commentary: New Testament

To experience **the power of His resurrection** was also the apostle's goal. The power which brought Christ forth from the dead now operates in believers' lives since they have been "raised with Christ" (Col. 3:1). "Power" (*dynamis*, also used in Acts 1:8; Rom. 1:16) means ability to overcome resistance. By setting forth his own goals and ambitions Paul gave the Philippians an example to follow. His example was, of course, in stark contrast to the Judaizers whose example they were not to follow.

Title: The Teachers Commentary

Author: Richards, Lawrence O.

Resurrection power (Phil. 3:10). It is easy to misread these words. Paul was not referring to the future resurrection promised to believers. Paul spoke later of that time (vv. 20-21). Here Paul expressed his deep yearning to experience God's resurrection power.

Paul had expressed this earlier, in Romans. "He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit, who lives in you" (Rom. 8:11). But Paul had not yet arrived at a full experience of that power (Phil. 3:12). The daily goal that Paul set for himself was a fuller experience of Christ's resurrection life, bringing vitality and power to his present.

Title: Vincent's Word Studies Vol. 3: The Epistles of Paul

Author: Vincent, Marvin R.

Power of His resurrection and fellowship of His sufferings furnish two specific points further defining the knowledge of *Him*. By *the power of Christ's resurrection* is meant the power which it exerts over believers.

Title: The Expositors Bible Commentary, New Testament

The phrase “to know him” (NIV, “to know Christ”) resumes the thought of v. 8 and explains in more detail what is involved in “knowing Christ Jesus.” Paul wants to know experientially the power of Christ’s resurrection. He is not thinking only of the divine power that raised Christ from the dead, but of the power of the resurrected Christ now operating in the believer’s life. This power enables believers to “live a new life” (Rom 6:4) because they have been “raised with Christ” (Col 3:1; Eph 2:5, 6).

That power exercised when God raised Christ from the dead. Such power is available (Eph 1:19–20) and imparted by the indwelling, risen Christ. KJV Bible Commentary

“That I may know him”—Paul at the end of his life still had the ambition to know Christ. Today some saints give me the impression that they have complete knowledge and they only need to polish their halo every morning and are ready to take off at any moment. Yet Paul, the greatest missionary the world has ever seen, said at the end of his life, “My ambition is still to know Christ—His person and the power of His resurrection.”

The greatest comfort in my life is the reality of Christ. I need the reality of Christ in my life—now don’t point an accusing finger at me, because that’s what you need also. McGee

3:10. This verse may also be paraphrased: “In order that I may personally know Him, that I might both experience His resurrection power and share in His sufferings, and thus I will be more and more conformed to His death.” Paul wants “the righteousness ... of God” (v. 9) so that he can obtain a personal relationship with Jesus in actual day-to-day experience. This knowledge of Christ is obtained by experiencing in daily problems, needs, ministry, and so forth, the same power that raised Jesus from the dead. Knowing Christ also entails participating in His sufferings. KJV Study Bible

Joh 10:4 "And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for **they know his voice**.

2Co 2:14 Now thanks *be* to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of **His knowledge** in every place.

Eph 1:18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; **that you may know** what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

1Pe 2:3 if indeed **you have tasted that the Lord is gracious**.

Ga 2:20 "**I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;** and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God,

who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Ro 6:4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, **that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.**

Col 2:12 buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with *Him* through faith **in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.**

Eph 2:5 even when we were dead in trespasses, **made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),**

Joh 5:26 "For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself,

Joh 5:27 "and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.

Joh 5:28 "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice

Joh 5:29 "and come forth----those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

Joh 10:18 "No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."

Joh 11:25 Jesus said to her, **"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.**

Joh 11:26 "And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

Ro 6:4 **Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.**

Ro 6:5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be *in the likeness* of *His* resurrection,

Ro 6:6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with *Him*, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

Ro 6:7 For he who has died has been freed from sin.

Ro 6:8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,

Ro 6:9 **knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.**

Ro 6:10 For *the death* that He died, He died to sin once for all; but *the life* that He lives, He lives to God.

Ro 6:11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to

God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2Co 1:10 who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver *us*,

2Co 4:10 always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, **that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.**

2Co 4:11 For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, **that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.**

2Co 4:12 So then death is working in us, but life in you.

2Co 4:13 And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak,

2Co 13:4 **For though He was crucified in weakness, yet He lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, but we shall live with Him by the power of God toward you.**

Col 2:13 **And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,**