

REVIVAL NEWS

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THAT I MIGHT KNOW HIM

By Paul Galligan

Philippians 3:10 *“That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death v.11 – if by any means I may attain to the resurrection of the dead”.*

WE ARE TO KNOW HIM

In **1 John 2:12-14** the apostle John speaks of **little children**. These are the new converts, needing milk and knowing the Father in a childlike way. He also speaks to **young men** as those who have overcome the wicked one. These ones are strong because the Word of God abides in them. The young men are equipped to do the work of the ministry, that is teaching, preaching the word, opening up the Scriptures and ministering in healing and deliverance.

John then addresses the **fathers**, saying *“Fathers have known Him who is the from the beginning”*. Fathers are the mature ones, and their maturity is linked to their relationship with God: they know Him who is from the beginning.

We are to keep on growing so that we might become fathers [mature ones]. Fathers train up young men in the gospel; training and equipping them to minister. This is the reality of discipleship.

He is from Eternity

In the prophecy given in **Micah 5:2** the one who will be Ruler over Israel, coming from Bethlehem, will literally be from ‘the days of eternity’, from everlasting. He is Jesus the Messiah, and He is **‘Him who is from the beginning’**, the Eternal One. He existed in the form of God before becoming a man (**Phil.2:5-6**).

The Word was God

John 1:1 *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God”* [literally in Greek ‘God was the Word’]

We are to know Him who is from the beginning. He is the Creator of Adam and Eve, the heavens and the earth (**Genesis 1**).

Coming to the knowledge of Christ Jesus

In **Philippians 3:8** Paul says, *“I count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord. I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish that I may gain Christ”*. The Christian life is very simple. Paul lays it out; there is only one way.

There is nothing I want to hold in my life that will stop me from knowing Christ Jesus, the excellence of the knowledge of Him. The cost at the door is that it will cost you everything. It will cost you everything to know Jesus, and to keep on knowing Jesus.

Being found in Him - Philippians 3:9

Knowing Jesus is also to be *“found in Him”*. We have righteousness through faith in Christ, not of ourselves. Faith is not just ‘I believe’. Faith is based on the word ‘conviction’ [SC#4102]. Faith is the conviction! It is active! The righteousness which is from God is by faith.

Paul asked, ‘Who are You, Lord?’

In **Acts 9:3-5** Paul, after the blinding light from heaven, when he met Jesus said, *“Who are You, Lord?”* Jesus answered *“I AM Jesus”* [the Greek is ‘ego eimi’ – **“I AM”**]. This is a clear reference to the name of God in the Old Testament. Jesus is identifying Himself as the Eternal God in the flesh. We are to know Him. This is where Paul’s journey began, coming to know Jesus. It is good for you to remember where you came from, and when you first met Jesus.

The five virgins did not know Him

The five foolish virgins were not prepared to meet with Jesus, but those who were pressing in to know Him had plenty of oil. They entered in, the others were excluded, **Matthew 25:1-13**. The door was shut; the five foolish ones were not ready; they did not have enough oil. Jesus said to them, *“I do not know you”* (v.12). They could do things for God, but they did not know Jesus.

Knowing Jesus in a real relationship is absolutely essential

These ones in **Matthew 7:21-23** did many miracles in Jesus’ name. They saw the Holy Spirit move; they saw amazing things. They were ministers, but Jesus said, *“I never knew you”* (v.23).

We are to know Him!

Let us pursue the knowledge of YHWH

Hosea 6:3 says, *“He will come to us like the rain, like the latter and former rain to the earth”*. Moses says in **Deuteronomy 32:2**, *“Let my teaching drop as the rain”*. The teaching is like rain drops on the tender herb. He goes on to say, *“For I proclaim the name of YHWH”*. The rain is the doctrine, the teaching. We are to teach no other doctrine (**1 Tim.1:3**). True doctrine brings the revelation of God in Jesus the Messiah.

The latter rain refers to the Feast Tabernacles. The former rain refers to the Feast of Pentecost. If we pursue **knowing Him**, He will come to us in the fulfilment of Pentecost and Tabernacles.

We do not need to live in an unhealed state. By knowing Him we will be healed, our wounds will be bound up (**Hosea 6:1**).

James also tells us to wait patiently for the early and latter rain because the coming of the Lord is at hand (**James 5:7-8**). The restoration and fulfilment of the feasts is an important part of our knowing the Lord and preparing for His coming.

THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION

Power = Greek ‘*dunamis*’ – force, miracle, miraculous power.

“With great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of Jesus and great grace was upon them” **Acts 4:33**. The first apostles knew the power of the resurrection.

The raising of Lazarus

In **John 11:23** Jesus is speaking to Martha and said *“your brother will rise again”*. Martha acknowledged that she believed in *“the resurrection at the last day”*(v.24). Jesus said to her *“I AM the resurrection and the life”* (v.25). Jesus declared again that He was the I AM! This declaration brought faith to Martha’s heart. Martha believed in Jesus. *“She said to Him, ‘Yes Lord I believe that you are the Christ the Son of God who is to come into the world’”* v.27. This is the same revelation that Peter received in **Matthew 16:16**. Jesus said He would build the church on that revelation. Now Martha has the revelation and that revelation released faith in her heart. Jesus proceeded to raise Lazarus from the dead. There is a great mystery here: when Martha confessed faith in Jesus, having heard Him reveal Himself to be the I AM, there is now faith for a great miracle. This is a demonstration of the power of the resurrection that we all long to know.

Our faith is in the resurrection of the dead

If the resurrection of Christ is not real, then there is no reason to believe in Him. The basic doctrine is that Jesus rose from the dead, this is the linchpin of Christian faith. If Christ is not risen, our faith is empty and there is no forgiveness. The defining article of faith is that Jesus rose from the dead. If Jesus rose from the dead, then we too will rise from the dead (**1 Corinthians 15:12-19**).

The Apostles of the Lamb were witnesses of the resurrection of Jesus Christ

The replacement of Judas to be the twelfth apostle had to be a person who especially had witnessed the resurrection of Jesus (**Acts 1:21-22**).

Without the resurrection there is no faith to preach. Saving faith is in the resurrection: Matthias was chosen to bear witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ, because he had been with Jesus.

A necessary foundation - Hebrews 6:1-2

Resurrection is the 5th foundation mentioned in the six necessary foundations that must be laid in our lives, so that we can comprehend and apprehend the word of God. These foundations are vital; we cannot go on to perfection without these foundations being laid.

Three foundational experiences of resurrection power

1. **Being born again** – only possible because of the Cross and resurrection. **John 3:5-6** speaks of natural birth, and the need of a spiritual birth. Without the second birth we look for supernatural things in wrong places.
2. **Baptism** – is into the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (**Rom.6:3-5**). Baptism is real. There is resurrection power involved to bring us into the new life more fully.
3. **Being filled with Holy Spirit** – one gets released in the power of the resurrection (**Rom.8:9-11**). Power comes through receiving the Holy Spirit (**Acts 1:8**).

THE FELLOWSHIP OF HIS SUFFERINGS

The bad news is that there will always be suffering. The good news is that you will experience Christ in the worst moments of your life.

Continue with Jesus

Jesus said to the disciples at the Last Supper that they had continued with Him in His trials (**Luke 22:28**). They were in the fellowship of His sufferings. In **John 6:60-66**, many

turned back from following Jesus. They did not continue because of His hard sayings. His twelve disciples did not turn back (v.67-68).

The affliction is but for a moment - 2 Corinthians 4:16-17

Even though the outward condition is perishing we are being renewed inwardly day by day. Our momentary light affliction is but for a moment. It is working for us an exceeding and eternal weight of glory. The suffering is very real and can seem to last a long time. Fellowship is being in the company of fellow believers who stand together in the times of suffering.

A corporate suffering

Paul says he *“rejoiced in my sufferings for you”* Colossians 1:24, filling up in his flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ. Paul laboured to bring the reality of what Jesus accomplished, to the saints in the church. We become an example to the saints in how we handle affliction. Through the ministry of the Word, we receive the comfort and wisdom we need to go through sufferings. The suffering even becomes corporate (1 Cor.12:26), *“If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it”*.

Expect persecution

Because we are not of the world, but identify with Jesus Christ, the world hates us. Jesus said, *“If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you”* (John 15:18-20). Paul says in 2 Timothy 3:10-12 all who desire to live godly in Christ will suffer persecution.

Trials will come, but rejoice

Various trials will come upon us, proving the genuineness of our faith (1 Peter 1:6-7). In 1 Peter 4:12-14 it says do not consider it strange when fiery trials come upon you. We are to rejoice to the extent that we partake in Christ’s sufferings. This will enable us to rejoice in the glory.

2 Thessalonians 1:4-5 - this church is going through persecution and tribulation. We are to go through suffering to be counted worthy of the kingdom of God. We welcome suffering because it is the righteous judgement of God. If we suffer for the kingdom, it is worthy, and makes us worthy to receive His kingdom. The result is that finally God will repay those with tribulation who trouble us (v.6). The fellowship of His sufferings finally leads to rest and the revelation of the Lord Jesus from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire (v.7).

Suffering is necessary to come to the ‘Omega’, the Finish, the Completion. We have a necessary and wonderful beginning in Christ. We must pass through some testing to come to the full revelation of Jesus at His coming.

BEING CONFORMED TO HIS DEATH

Paul speaks of *“Carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our body”* 2 Corinthians 4:10. This is a very deep statement, *‘carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus’*. This is not easy.

Verse 11 says that *“we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus’ sake”* and this allows the life of Jesus to be manifested in our mortal flesh. Verse 12 says death works in us and brings forth life in others.

Even as God *“raised up the Lord Jesus [He will] raise us up with Jesus and will present us with you”* v.13-14. There will be a day when we are all raised up together.

Paul refers to this in a different way in **Romans 6**, when he is talking about baptism. He says, *“that our old man was crucified with Christ, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin”* (**Rom.6:6**). If we died with Christ, *“we believe that we shall also live with Him”* (**Rom.6:8**). We are, *“to reckon ourselves to be dead indeed to sin”* (**Rom.6:11**).

What is the result of living this way?

2 Corinthians 4:15 shows us that all sufferings have intermissions of victory. When we come to victory, it causes thanksgivings to abound to the glory of God. **John 15:7-8** – if we abide, pray and obey His quickened word then the Father will be glorified.

Colossians 3:3-4 - We have died, and our lives are hidden with Christ in God. When Christ our life appears then we will appear with Him in glory.

What sort of a death did Jesus die?

Jesus died as a martyr. He died for what He believed, the truth, the faith. Jesus died a death ordained, planned and prophesied by God (**Acts 2:23**).

What happened to Jesus in Gethsemane?

Jesus died in the flesh [to His own will]. He said, ‘Not My will, but Yours be done’. It was a voluntary death. He agreed with God that He should die. He went through the suffering and agony of His soul. He died to any sense of human preservation. Let us have a godly view of death and dying

The result of this death

There was a revelation of the mighty power of God manifesting through Him in that very hour when all the soldiers fell at His words, **“I AM”** – **John 18:3-6**. You will see the glory when you are conformed to Jesus’ death.

- **IT IS POSSIBLE TO KNOW HIM AND THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION!**
- **IT IS POSSIBLE TO KNOW HIM AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF HIS SUFFERINGS!**
- **IT IS POSSIBLE TO KNOW HIM, BEING CONFORMED TO HIS DEATH!**
- **THE GOAL IS TO ARRIVE AT THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD! Phil.3:11**