

To know Jesus and the power of His resurrection

April 9, 2023

Phil 3:10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; (Phil 3:7-11)

To Know (ginoskein) which indicates personal knowledge.

It is not simply intellectual knowledge, the knowledge of certain facts or even principles. It is a personal experience of another person. It was not Paul's aim to know about Christ, but personally to know him. Believers are brought not only to redemption, but to the Redeemer Himself.

Most commentators take (to know) in the sense of expressing purpose and motive. To Know may be "in order that I may know him"; that is, "my one aim is to know Christ" (NEB "all I care for is to know Christ"), or all I want is to know Christ (TEV JB).

To know Christ meant much more than knowing about him in his mind. Knowledge is a relationship term of intimacy. Paul wanted the closest possible personal relationship with Christ, a relationship pictured in baptism as buried to the old life of sin and raised to a new life of righteousness.

Gal 2:20: "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

In everyday living, Paul maintained that his life and the lives of his readers should reflect the difference that Christ makes.

A literal rendering of to know Christ is liable to be misunderstood as merely "knowing about Christ", It may be preferable to translate this phrase as "to experience Christ with me," or even as "to be associated with Christ." This is Paul's major passion, to get more knowledge of Christ by experience.

The power

Power [Gk. dunamis] the potential to exert force in performing some function. All the words derived from the stem dúna - have the meaning of being able, capable. Power occurs 48 times in the Epistles of Paul, and like the English, 'power' has a wide range of meanings including 'power, might, strength, force; ability, capability'. (see Col 1:11, 29; 2:12; Eph 1:19; 3:7, 16, 20; 6:10);

Eph 1:18-20 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might 20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

A range of other terms is employed to focus attention on the might that God exercised when he raised Christ from the dead and by which he now works in and through the lives of his people. This power working in us is the same as the mighty strength that he [God] used when he raised Christ from the dead, and by which we are transformed.

The power of his resurrection - assuring believers of their justification (Rom 4:25; 1Cor 15:17), and raising them up spiritually with Him, by virtue of their identification with Him in this, as in all the acts of His redeeming work for us (Rom 6:4; Col 2:12; 3:1). The power of the Spirit, which raised Him from literal death, is the same which raises believers from spiritual death now (Eph 1:19-20), and shall raise their bodies from literal death hereafter (Ro 8:11).

Rom 6:4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. Also, Paul wants to know in an experiential way the power of Christ's resurrection. That is, he wants to experience the same power which raised Christ from the dead surging through his own being,

overcoming sin in his life and producing the Christian graces. The Greek word for “power” used here is the same one that is used in Rom 1:16.

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Through the resurrection of Christ, we have God’s power in us.

We have resurrection power living in us.

Rom 7:4 Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.

We have God’s power working within us

2Cor 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves;

We have resurrection life within, we are new creations.

Rom 6:4 we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. (2Cor 5:17)

His power is towards us as we believe.

Eph 1:19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might

Our spirit is to be strengthened with His power by the Holy Spirit

Eph 3:16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man,

God is able to do great things through the power of God within us.

Eph 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,

God has given to us a spirit of power.

2Tim1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

Through the power of God we have everything we need for life and godliness.

2Pt 1:3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

References used:

Jamieson, Fausset, & Brown Commentary
HNTC Commentary by Anders
NAC Commentary by Malick
Robertson’s Word Pictures in the New Testament
Wuest’s word studies from the Greek New Testament: