

Philippians 8 – To Know Him & His Resurrection Power

Dr. John Carmichael

[Phi 3:7-11 NASB95] 7 But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, 9 and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from [the] Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which [comes] from God on the basis of 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 in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

- **Too many believers stop at salvation, satisfied with forgiveness but never pressing into resurrection power. Paul wanted more: a deep, Spirit-filled intimacy with Jesus that transforms everything.**
- **Paul writes Philippians from prison, yet he's burning with passion, not just to survive hardship, but to truly know Christ ("the supereminence above them all" JFB). He's forsaken religious credentials and earthly gains for something far greater: the power of the resurrection.**

What does it mean to know Him and His resurrection power?

Here are three powerful truths from this passage that will help us know Christ and His resurrection power.

I. Losing to Gain: Letting Go of Self-Righteousness

- a. **[Phi 3:7-9 NASB95] 7 But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, 9 and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from [the] Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which [comes] from God on the basis of faith,**
- b. **Paul counts all his religious accomplishments as loss. Why? Because righteousness doesn't come by effort but by faith in Christ. The Spirit baptizes us into a righteousness we could never earn.**
- c. **The Spirit can't fill what pride refuses to empty.**
- d. **[Isa 64:6 NASB95] 6 For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; And all of us wither like a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.**
- e. **"Rubbish" (GR: σκύβαλον) is possibly the vulgar word for human excrement. It was a strong and shocking word. Paul did not grieve what he lost because it was all "rubbish." (see Net Bible notes or <https://koine-greek.com/2018/05/02/obscenity-in-paul-the-question-of-skubalon/> or Eadie Commentary)**
- f. **Israel sought their own righteousness instead of God's. [Rom 10:3 NASB95] 3 For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.**
- g. **Confess and lay down any self-reliance. Trust fully in Christ's finished work. Reject religious pride and pursue intimacy.**

II. Knowing Christ and the Power of His Resurrection

- a. **[Phi 3:10 NASB95] 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;**

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- b. Paul's cry was to know Christ; not just intellectually, but through the Spirit's power. Resurrection power is life out of death, victory out of defeat. It's the same power that raised Jesus from the dead dwelling in us. [Rom 8:11 NASB95] 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.
- c. Spirit baptism is the doorway to experiencing resurrection power daily.
- d. "To know HIM is more than merely to know a doctrine about Him. Believers are brought not only to redemption, but to the Redeemer Himself." (JFB)
- e. [Act 1:8 NASB95] 8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."
- f. Pray daily for fresh infilling of the Spirit. Expect supernatural victory in areas of defeat. Walk in bold faith, knowing resurrection power dwells in you.

III. Fellowship of His Sufferings: The Pathway to Power

- a. [Phl 3:10-11 NASB95] 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; 11 in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.
- b. Paul knew that resurrection power requires crucifixion of the flesh. The Holy Spirit leads us into surrender, sacrifice, and sometimes suffering—not to destroy us, but to raise us into new life.
- c. The cross isn't where power ends. It's where power begins.
- d. [Gal 2:20 NASB95] 20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and 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 up for me.
- e. [Luk 9:23 NASB95] 23 And He was saying to [them] all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.
- f. "He never lacked the assurance that he was a child of God, accepted by God (Rom. 8:15-17; Gal. 4:6-7), yet he was never complacent or presumptuous. Faith must endure to the end (Mk. 13:13; Heb. 3:14). We should read Paul's words here as an expression not so much of doubt, as of humility." (New Bible Commentary)
- g. Embrace the Spirit's work in pruning pride, sin, and selfishness. Find joy even in trials, knowing God is working resurrection life. Yield every area to Christ's lordship.

- **To know Christ and His resurrection power we must be willing to lay down the flesh and walk in the Spirit's intimate fellowship.**
- **"This means knowing the power of his resurrection in daily and sharing his sufferings by dying to the self-centered life that is natural to us and being willing to face difficulty and hardship that the gospel of salvation may go out to all people. These two realities must always belong together in any genuine Christian life." (NBC - Foulkes)**
- **There's more to this Christian life than survival. The Spirit offers resurrection power: freedom over sin, supernatural joy, boldness to witness, and intimacy with Christ. But that power flows through a life surrendered at the cross.**
- **You can't know resurrection power without crucifying the flesh. But when you surrender, the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the grave will raise you into new levels of victory, intimacy, and anointing.**
- **Let's press in! Not content with surface religion, but desperate to truly know Him.**