

TO KNOW

(γινῶναι = 'gnoneh') (γινώσκω = 'ghinosko')

*To know, completely understand, perceive, feel, have knowledge of,
to learn to know, to come to know, get a knowledge of,
to become personally acquainted with.*

Philippians 3:10, "That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection." The Greek word translated "**know**" means to 'understand completely' or 'realise'. It frequently indicates a relationship between the person "*knowing*" and that, which is being "*known*". Therefore, that which is being "*known*" must have real value or importance to the one who "*knows*" (who has understood completely). Can you see? We must **know** (*completely understand*) Christ (the *anointed One*), and **know** (*completely understand*) the power of His resurrection! However, another aspect of "knowing" is 'experiencing'. Experiential knowledge is vitally important in all spiritual matters, and especially in our relationship with God. Therefore, this scripture is telling us to "experience" Christ and "experience" the power of His resurrection. When was the last time you experienced Christ and experienced the power of His resurrection?

The kind of knowledge the apostle Paul had in mind when writing to the Philippian church was experiential knowledge of Christ 'as a Person'. There is a subtle tendency among many of us to be more interested in an intellectual knowledge about God, than in a personal knowledge of Him. The former is important, but God wants us to love Him with our hearts and our souls as well as our minds (Matthew 22:37). Above everything else, Paul made it his purpose to know Christ with his whole being – to know Him completely. Philippians 3 clearly affirms that true spirituality is not concerned with rules, regulations, and rituals, but with the person of Christ Jesus. The focus of Scripture is not on religion, but on a relationship.

A personal knowledge of Christ involves not only an increased grasp of "the power of His resurrection," but also a greater understanding of "the fellowship of His sufferings," and being conformed to His death. The believer's conformity to His death is vividly described in Galatians 2:20: "***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 delivered Himself up for me.***" Paul adds in Romans 6 that, "*If we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection... If we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him*" (Romans 6:5,8). Therefore, our identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection is the basis for our "experiencing" the **power** of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings. Furthermore, knowing Christ and His divine power gives us everything we need for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3).