

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying
Message Four : Knowing Christ and the Power of His Resurrection

I. Overview

Paul aspired to know Christ; to have the excellency of the knowledge of Christ is by revelation, but to know Him is by experience. The word know in Philippians 3:10 is equal to experience. To know Christ is not merely to have the knowledge concerning Him but to gain His very person. To gain Christ requires the paying of a price. Paul aspired to know and experience the power of Christ's resurrection. The power of Christ's resurrection is His resurrection life, which raised Him from the dead. Christ Himself is resurrection. Death is the greatest limitation, but resurrection has conquered death; therefore, resurrection is the greatest power of all. Resurrection of Christ is life that overcomes death without being damaged or injured by death. In order to experience the resurrection life of Christ, we need to see that in resurrection Christ became the life-giving Spirit. The principle of resurrection is that the natural life is killed and that the divine life rises up in its place. That which passes through death and still remains is resurrection.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Explain Paul having the excellency of the knowledge of Christ.

To have the excellency of the knowledge of Christ in Philippians 3:8 is by revelation. But to know Him in verse 10 is by experience—to have the experiential knowledge of Him, to experience Him in the full knowledge of Him. Paul first received the revelation of Christ and then sought for the experience of Christ—to know and enjoy Him in an experiential way.

B. Expound how to know Christ in an experiential way.

The excellency of the knowledge of Christ always exceeds our experience of Christ. If we do not have a higher knowledge of Christ, we cannot have a higher experience of Christ. Nevertheless, we should not be content with such a limited knowledge of Christ, but should advance in our knowledge of Him. Oh, how we need the excellency of knowing Christ!

Day 2 —

A. Explain the knowing of Him spoken of in Philippians 3:10 comes by experience.

The knowing of Him spoken of in Philippians 3:10 comes not by revelation but by experience. According to my experience, the word knowing here is equal to experience. To know Him means to experience Him, to enjoy Him, to participate in Him, and to partake of Him. We also need to pay the price to gain Him through experiencing Him a little at a time to know Him.

B. Expound how to be found in Christ.

Where we are when others observe us indicates the realm in which we live. If we live in our culture, we shall be found by others in culture. When Paul was still living by the law, he was found in the law. But one day he began to have the excellency of the knowledge of Christ. Furthermore, he suffered the loss of all things and counted them as refuse in order to gain Christ and be found in Him.

Day 3 —

A. Expound the patterns of Paul in pursuit of Christ.

Paul had experienced and gained Christ tremendously, yet he did not account of himself to have experienced Christ in full or gained Him to the uttermost. He still endeavoured to pursue toward the goal—the gaining of Christ to the fullest extent. In order to gain Christ to the fullest extent, Paul forgot the past and was stretching out to reach the farthest extent of this territory.

B. Explain being found in Him, we shall surely know Him.

Paul was willing to suffer the loss of all things and count them as refuse that he might gain Christ and be found in Him to know Him. According to Paul's concept, if we would know Christ, we must first be found in Him, and then be those who live in Christ are found by others in Christ.

Day 4 —

A. Expound how the very Christ walks in the midst of the churches.

The very Christ who walks in the midst of the churches, who is the Head of the churches and to whom the churches belong, is the living One. Hence, the churches also, as the expression of His Body, should be living, fresh, and strong. The Lord entered into death, but death could not hold Him because He is the resurrection. However severe the suffering, the church will still be alive.

B. State knowing and experiencing the power of Christ's resurrection.

To know, to experience, this power requires identification with Christ's death and conformity to it. Death is the base of resurrection. To experience the power of Christ's resurrection, we need to live a crucified life according to the pattern of His life. Our conformity to His death affords a base for the power of His resurrection to rise up that His divine life may be expressed in us.

Day 5 —

A. Explain the power of resurrection of Christ.

Paul said in Philippians 3:10 that we have to know Christ and the power of His resurrection. Why did Paul not say the power of the cross?...This is because the cross is a negative death, a termination and an end. However, resurrection is something positive; it is a life that is raised from death, a regaining after a termination. Resurrection is something that has come out of death; it is something beyond the natural realm.

B. Fellowship the experience of resurrection and its application.

What is resurrection? It is that which has passed through death and which has come out of death. For example, you may have wisdom, eloquence, and natural attraction. You have to say to the Lord, "I am willing to go through death and resurrection and to give these things up in death so that I can claim them back from God's hand." The experience of resurrection is letting go of everything that is natural through death, not trusting in them any longer, and not glorying in them.

Day 6 —

A. Expound how resurrection overcomes death.

Resurrection is life that overcomes death without being damaged or injured by death. Death is powerless to do anything with resurrection life. Death can inflict all kinds of damage on other forms of life—plant life, animal life, and human life. Only one kind of life cannot be hurt by death, and this is resurrection life.

B. Explain how we live a crucified life.

When we are willing to be crucified and placed into death, the crucified life will become the base for the resurrection life to rise up. Thus, by being crucified, we will come to know the power of Christ's resurrection. But if we are not crucified, we cannot know the power of His resurrection. There is only one way for us to know the power of His resurrection, and that is to live a crucified life.

III. Conclusion:

First, we need to see the revelation of on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ. Second, we need to pay a price to win Christ. Third, we need to live in Christ, remain in Christ, abide in Christ, speak in Christ, walk in Christ, move in Christ, and conduct in Christ. Then whenever an angel or a saint comes to see us, he will see that we are in Christ. This will astonish the demons and make the demons afraid. Oh! How we might win Christ and be found in Him! Being found in Christ is not a once-for-all thing, but a daily thing, a moment-to-moment thing. We need to be found by the angels, by our husband or wife, and by the brothers and sisters in the church in Christ. This is a serious matter.