

Philippians 3:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

Analysis

That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death (τοῦ γνῶναι αὐτὸν καὶ τὴν δύναμιν τῆς ἀναστάσεως αὐτοῦ καὶ τὴν κοινωνίαν παθημάτων αὐτοῦ, συμμορφιζόμενος τῷ θανάτῳ αὐτοῦ, του γνῶναι αυτὸν καὶ τὴν δύναμιν τῆς αναστασῆς αὐτοῦ καὶ τὴν κοινωνίαν παθημάτων αὐτοῦ, συμμορφίζομενος τῷ θανάτῳ αὐτοῦ)—Tou gnōnai ("to know," infinitive of purpose) is Paul's consuming passion. Threefold knowing:

1. tēn dynamin tēs anastaseōs ("power of resurrection")—present experience of resurrection-life (Rom 6:4; Eph 1:19-20)
2. koinōnian pathēmatōn ("fellowship of sufferings")—sharing Christ's sufferings (Col 1:24; 2 Cor 1:5)
3. symmorphizomenos tō thanatō ("being conformed to His death")—dying to self (Gal 2:20).

Knowing Christ is experiential, costly, transformative—not mere intellectual assent.

Historical Context

Ancient philosophy pursued knowledge (gnōsis) through reason and contemplation. Paul's 'knowledge' is relational union producing conformity to

Christ's death-resurrection pattern. Gnostics later claimed secret knowledge; Paul's knowledge is public gospel embraced by faith and lived through suffering. Resurrection power isn't triumphalism but cruciformity—dying and rising with Christ (Rom 6:1-11).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How do you experience 'the power of His resurrection' in daily life?
2. What does 'fellowship of His sufferings' look like practically in your context?
3. How are you being 'conformed to His death'—dying to self and sin?

Interlinear Text

τοῦ γνῶναι αὐτοῦ καὶ τὴν δύναμιν τῆς
G3588 **That I may know** him and G3588 **the power** G3588
G1097 G846 G2532 G1411

ἀναστάσεως αὐτοῦ καὶ τὴν κοινωνίαν τῶν παθημάτων
resurrection him and G3588 the fellowship G3588 sufferings
G386 G846 G2532 G2842 G3804

αὐτοῦ συμμορφούμενος τῷ θανάτῳ αὐτοῦ
him being made conformable G3588 death him
G846 G4833 G2288 G846

Additional Cross-References

Galatians 2:20 (Parallel theme): I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Romans 8:17 (Parallel theme): And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

Philippians 3:8 (Parallel theme): Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

Colossians 3:1 (Resurrection): If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

1 John 2:3 (Parallel theme): And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

Colossians 1:24 (Parallel theme): Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:

2 Corinthians 1:5 (Parallel theme): For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.

2 Corinthians 13:4 (Parallel theme): For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you.

1 Peter 1:3 (Resurrection): Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

John 17:3 (Parallel theme): And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.