

EVERYDAY LIFE

Tuesday, November 11, 2008

"That I may know Him." Philippians 3:10 NKJV

"A personal encounter of such intimacy with Jesus has the power to birth new life."

My thoughts today are about **"truly knowing Christ."**

You need to have a purpose and superceding objective in life. There has to be something **important enough to you to warrant the sacrifices and demands that life may require** from you - something bigger than yourself that can continually motivate you to strive and excel. I am surprised by how few people really do, or how insignificant some people's objective is.

I believe that **today's verse is the greatest purpose that you will ever choose - to know Jesus Christ in the most practical, personal, and intimate way.** Today's verse has long been *"my life's verse,"* the verse that most describes my deepest, spiritual desire. When in college, this verse became the aim of my life. For many years, I included the reference when I signed my name. As a young minister, I prayed that Paul's passion would be my passion, *"That I may know Christ, in the power of His resurrection and in the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable even unto His death."* Philippians 3:10.

The word that Paul used to define His passionate pursuit of Jesus describes a most intimate and personal encounter. It is not intellectual knowledge of Christ for which Paul seeks. He does not require more information about Jesus. **It is heart knowledge - a life-changing experience - not head knowledge, for which he longs. Information without corresponding experience becomes intellectual, not relational reality.** Only the latter is indispensable. Information without experience can immunize you from a real and vital relationship with God.

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Paul uses a word the Hebrews chose, *"And Adam knew his wife, Eve and she conceived . . ."* Genesis 4:1. It is also the expression of Mary's incredulity at the angel's announcement when she asks, *"How can this be seeing I have never known a man?"* See Luke 1:30-38. Both clearly express experiences that result in a release of new life. It is **sad that some are content to know about God, without truly knowing Christ personally and powerfully.** Don't ever accept that as adequate. It's not.

Paul voices his deepest longing for **a personal encounter with Jesus of such depth of intimacy that has the power to birth new life.** Such a spiritual intimacy evidences itself in this manner: a power for life that is linked to and sourced from the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. See Ephesians 1:17-21. **What challenge will you face that resurrection power cannot handle?** Could there be any?

In Jesus' resurrection, God snatched fullness of life out of the grip of death itself. God turned apparent defeat into the most glorious triumph. Is there any greater power than that? What's broken in your life that needs to be fixed? **What is dead in your life that needs to be raised from lifelessness?** Paul wanted to have such a divine connection with Jesus. Don't you?

If there are many things - or anything - that you desire more than Him, then you really do not yet long to know Him, as He desires to be known. *"And this is the way to have eternal life - to know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth."* John 17:3 NLT. There is a depth of relationship that can only come from a depth of fellowship experienced with another. Then, and maybe only then, can you know the power that flows from His Resurrection into the very circumstances where you walk and live every day.

My prayer this day is that you truly know Jesus until you are never again the same.

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