

DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

By Sareth

READ: PHILIPPIANS 3:10

- There was a hunger in Paul's life for more of Christ. 30 years after his conversion to Christ (Acts 9) his desire was to know Him and the Power of His resurrection Paul is always seeking to encourage the church to focus on Christ and Him alone.
- The key to successful Christian living is knowing Christ.
 - Knowing Him as Lord and Saviour.
 - Knowing the power of His Resurrection.
- When Jesus walked the face of the earth he spoke of the reality that His death on the cross and subsequent resurrection was something that was going to happen.
 - *John 2 v 19 Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." He also said, concerning his life, John 10 v 18 "I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again."*
- His resurrection did not only provide our pardon and our justification, but it provided our full acceptance. Eph 1 v 6 "He hath made us accepted in the beloved." Christ is never separated from his people. Romans 8 v39
- I pray that you may know the power of his resurrection in this respect, and become flooded with delight by the conviction that you are accepted, beloved, and delighted in by the Lord God. The resurrection will make your heart dance for joy if you fully see the pardon, justification, and acceptance which it guarantees to you.
- "I am the resurrection and the life." Do not say, "I believe in Christ, and desire life." You have it. Christ and life are not two things. He says, "I am the resurrection, and the life." If you have Jesus Christ, you have the resurrection. Oh, that each one of us might now realize what power lies in him who is the resurrection and the life! All the power there is in Christ is there for his people. "It pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell," and "of his fulness have all we received." Col :1v19
- This is crucial to know and accept because if we live in our own power / strength we will fail.
- If the devil can steal your joy he will also attempt to steal your strength. He comes to steal, kill and destroy.
- Believers usually fit into one of two groups
 - Some people want to keep trying to overcome weakness in their own strength.
 - Others need to surrender more.
- I trust we most if not all of us need to surrender more. Most of us know that we are weak. But in that weakness we can be made strong, living in His power is something that God does in submission to Him.

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Week 41

- Everywhere in scripture it is the Lord who strengthens his people.
 - *2 Timothy- 4:17: "The Lord stood with me and strengthen me"*
- These were some of the last words written by the apostle Paul before his death. He will do the same for you and me as he did for Paul if we ask him and keep on asking him. His strength is the key, weakness is really not a bad thing. But in our weakness there is a power that we can receive from God. That enables us to stand strong in the face of adversity
 - *Heb 11:34 : Out of weakness, were made strong.*
- God strengthens his people in *Ps 105 vs 24*. Ezekiel 3 8 made strong in the face of adversity *Micah 4 v7* I will make them a strong nation. Blessed is the man whose strength is in the Lord *Ps 84 v 5* . The Lord will give strength unto his people the Lord will bless his people with peace. *Ps 29v 11*.
- If you're struggling to experience this power you need to be renouncing trust in yourself daily and declare the need of His trust and strength.
- Allowing the power of His resurrection to work. Joseph was made strong *Gen 49 v 24*. Not in his own strength. There is a power that comes from God that does enable us in our weakness. That empowers us.
- That's why 30 years after his conversion to Christ. Paul's desire was that he would know Christ and the power of His resurrection more than he had ever known or experienced before. Indeed more than everything that he had lived and experienced before. *Phil 3 v7*
- He didn't want to return to what he knew and experienced before. He knew that tough days lay ahead for him, his earthly journey was getting nearer to the end.
- Our earthly journey isn't always easy. Many Christians are frustrated perhaps even angry with the current restrictions that have been put in place.
- What an example Paul was to us, but only because he allowed the power of the resurrection to work in his life.
- Whilst Paul was under lockdown in prison many of the NT epistles were written. Down through the centuries these precious pages of scripture have from God's perspective changed countless numbers of lives for the better, encouraged countless numbers of people and challenged countless numbers of people.
- Why? because one man desired to know Christ and the power of His resurrection more than anything else. During these days of physical restrictions (and that's all they are) .
- I believe God is challenging us to be prepared for the next part of our lives. I believe he desires to reveal Himself to us more and more in these days. So rather than having a rebellious or bitter heart.

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- Let's have the mindset of Paul. That I might know him and the power of His resurrection.
- Why? So that we might have a testimony in days to come of what God has done in our hearts during such a time as this.
- Let this be our daily prayer *Phil 3 v 10*
- Let's seek God with all of our hearts.
- The trial of your faith works patience, if we lack wisdom in a situation we can ask. *James 1 v 4/5*. Had Paul not gone through the experience / trial of prison. Some parts of the NT would never have been written. Prison allowed him that opportunity.
- Whenever you're experiencing a trial always ask the Lord to do a work that glorifies Him. The trial has a good conclusion, it will encourage someone else.
- The person who is weak in their faith prays little depending upon themselves and as a result gets restless and all that goes with it.
- *Psalm 27 v 14* encourages us to wait on the Lord so that we can be strengthened. Being dependent on God is crucial.
- Desire to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man. *Ephesians 3:16*
- "Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might" *Ephesians 6:10*
- Keep asking *Matthew 7v7* present tense
- *2 Tim 2 v 1* "Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.
- Sometimes believers begin in Grace and then try to walk in their own strength.
- That's never God's intention.
 - *Isaiah 40 v 28-31*.
 - V29 power for the faint.
 - V31 with waiting comes renewed strength.
- Glory to God for the power of His resurrection. No limitations in Him.
- Because of the power of the resurrection in Paul's life he knew the security, joy and contentment that can only be found in a close walk with Christ.