

Resting in God
“Our new found ability to completely trust in an already trustworthy Father God”

Study 9

Philippians 3:10-11 (Amplified Bible)

10) *[For my determined purpose is] that I may know Him [that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly], and that I may in that same way come to know the power outflowing from His resurrection [which it exerts over believers], and that I may so share His sufferings as to be continually transformed [in spirit into His likeness even] to His death, [in the hope]*

11) *That if possible I may attain to the [spiritual and moral] resurrection [that lifts me] out from among the dead [even while in the body].*

The Spiritual and moral resurrection that lifts someone out from among the dead even while living in our earthly bodies, is the fruit of living in the Kingdom of God. Knowing Who Jesus really is, and knowing the life that is ours because of His death and resurrection, is vital to knowing how to walk on this earth as His followers. Being transformed into His likeness is our hope of His covenant promise to us.

Knowing what has been done for us at the cross and the resurrection is paramount in the understanding of the privilege we have to be in the presence of God for anything and everything we need or need to become. In that wondrous place He imparts himself to us as all powerful Father to very needy and submissive child; lovingly transforming us into the likeness of Christ.

Paul knew that the only hope he had was to know Jesus and the power of His resurrection. Starting by knowing that truth of that need and progressing to want only that truth because of the love he found in pursuing it, he lived a significant life in the eyes of God. His life was transformed enough that the Lord uses him to this day in the lives of every believer as they read the Word. He craved to know Jesus in the innermost parts of his being. God delightfully honored that desire, not only giving him his wish, but imparted the character of Christ in him and then through him to others.

Matthew 11:12 (New International Version) From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it.

Sharing the sufferings of Jesus, those sufferings meaning the putting down of His fleshly nature, continually transforms us into His likeness. Jesus allowed His Father to defeat His flesh, long before we met Him at the Jordan river. Those challenges and victories taught Him absolute obedience. All the fleshly desires and limitations that were a part of His being born of woman and like us in every way had been totally conquered by God so that we could see only the living Christ.

Our flesh is not welcome in the spiritual world with Christ. Father God is delighted to destroy it for us so that fellowship with Him can be complete and unhindered, forcefully advancing His final frontier in us and all around us. We, however, must do what Jesus had done to rid Himself of its limitations. We must determine in our hearts to allow God to destroy it. That must be our goal and as important to us as our ability to breath.

Notice, Paul was determined. He wasn't casually interested. He wanted to be like Jesus with everything that was in Him. His aggressive stance against everything in him that would not serve God and represent Jesus properly to others forcefully advanced the kingdom of heaven and won for Him the ability to overcome the ways of the world and all of its challenges.

Nothing could touch him. None could sway him from proclaiming the love of his Lord as loud and as clear as he could. He was as impervious to the world and its ways as his Lord Jesus was. God used him in a way in which others, even to this day see Christ in him and desire to follow his ways as he followed Jesus.

Hebrews 4:9-10 (New International Version) There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; 10) for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his.

In his travels, through persecutions, beatings and prison, Paul was at rest in his Father's arms. No matter how many names they called him in their hatred for him, everyone that came in contact with him, eventually had to call him a follower of Jesus because he lived the kind of life Jesus lived. Christ was so fully formed in him that Paul resided where Jesus was. Jesus, in turn was with Paul wherever he went. If Paul was in prison, Jesus was there with him.

The rest that God has for us has little or nothing to do with where we live in this world. If we have found the wonder of who we really are in Jesus, He is not only with us for eternity, we get to abide in His presence wherever we go. As He lived, we can live. We can be as free as He was walking through this world no matter where it attempts to take us.

The rest of God begins with the determined purpose of knowing Jesus intimately. Ask the Lord to make that your priority for the remainder of your life. If you do, He will give you Himself. He is completely at rest. Even when there is cause to be fearful and panic, there is never a panic in heaven. You have been given an invitation to participate in that marvelous peace.

For thought or discussion:

How does your determination compare to Paul's

What would you fear losing if you decided to be as determined as he was