

KNOWING CHRIST AND THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION

Ph. 3:10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,

Ph. 3:11 and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Ph. 3:12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

The starting point in the quest for the power of resurrection is to have a proper understanding about Jesus Christ. Jesus said (Jn.14:12) that anyone who believes in him will do all the work that he did. We do not see that happening today because people who say that they believe in Jesus do not have adequate knowledge of Jesus. The starting point of power is knowledge.

About Jesus

Mt. 13:31 He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field.

Mt. 13:32 Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches."

Mt. 13:33 He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough."

In order to get a good understanding of Jesus Christ, we need to get a good understanding of the first man, Adam. Ro. 5:14 says that Adam was a pattern of Jesus. Adam was like a mustard seed that God planted on the earth. He has now developed into billions of branches or descendants. Unfortunately, birds of the air (evil spirits) lodge in those branches. A woman (Eve) brought sin or evil spirit into the human race.

Jn. 12:24 I tell you the truth, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

Jn. 15:1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.

Jn. 15:5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

In the fullness of time, God planted a new human seed on the earth; a grain of wheat. Jesus is a new Adam. God's purpose in planting the new human seed on the earth is to save as many branches of the original Adam as possible. God did not make the new human seed to be fruitful and multiply physically or biologically. Rather, God made the new human seed to be fruitful and multiply spiritually.

Ge. 2:7 The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

Ge. 2:8 Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed.

Ge. 2:9 And the LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground — trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

God first of all created the physical or outer man. Then He birthed a spiritual or inner being within the outer man. God thereafter placed the Adam that He created in His garden. This garden had physical trees that provided food for the outer man. The two trees at the center of the garden were spirit beings that could feed the inner being. God warned Adam to keep away from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, in order not to impair his inner being. God purposed that if man kept to His word, He would allow man to feed on the fruit of the tree of life, which would make the inner being of man to grow into a full-sized replica of God. Unfortunately, man could not obey God's word and thereby ate the wrong spiritual food. That was how the inner being of man became evil spirit.

Mt. 3:16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him.

Mt. 3:17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Mt. 4:1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.

The new human seed that God planted on earth also started as a physical being. In the River Jordan, God birthed a spirit being in him and then moved him into the desert. (Recall that God moved the original Adam into His cozy garden.) The new Adam was tempted by Satan in the desert. The temptation was simply aimed at making the new Adam to turn against the word of God. The new Adam successfully repelled all the temptations.

Mt. 4:11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Lk. 4:14 Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.

Because Jesus held on to the word of God and successfully repelled Satan's temptations, God sent angels to feed him with the fruit of life. His inner being grew mightily towards the likeness of God. He began to do great things.

Satan continued to try Jesus throughout his earthly ministry. The ultimate trial was targeted at discouraging the grain of wheat from falling to the ground and dying. But Jesus overcame all that. By dying on the cross, he fulfilled every word of God

concerning him. God lifted Jesus to the highest level of divinity that He could lift any being to.

Ph. 2:9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,

Ph. 2:10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

Ph. 2:11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Power of Resurrection

Resurrection takes place when the inner being of a man grows so much that it dominates the outer man and finally swallows up the outer man by transforming it to spiritual body. It is mortal being swallowed up by immortality.

The starting point in the acquisition of the power of resurrection is to be born of the Spirit. You must be baptized into Jesus Christ in water and in the Spirit. God births in you a spirit or inner being that is like God in true righteousness and holiness. There are two ways in which a person can be baptized in the Holy Spirit. One way is for the person involved to continue to pray for the gift of the Spirit (Lk. 11:13). The other way is for a person who has grown in the spirit to lay hand on the person that wants to receive and prayerfully transfer the Holy Spirit. This second way is based on Jesus' promise that if anyone believes in him, out of the person's belly shall flow streams of living water (Jn. 7:38).

After a person has received the Holy Spirit from God, the spirit man is very small in stature and in strength. In order for the spirit man to grow in stature and strength, it must be fed with spiritual food and spiritual drink.

1Co. 10:2 They were all baptised into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.

1Co. 10:3 They all ate the same spiritual food

1Co. 10:4 and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.

1Co. 10:11 These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfilment of the ages has come.

Just as we receive the Holy Spirit by praying to God, we should also ask God to feed us with spiritual food (the bread of life) and to give us Spiritual drink (living water). I believe that the prayer, "Give us this day our daily bread" refers to spiritual food and spiritual drink. We should feed on spiritual food and spiritual drink every day.

The Growth of the Inner Being

The inner being grows as it feeds on the bread of life and drinks living water. But from the stories of Adam and of Jesus Christ, we can see that the bread of life and living

water are not cheap. God gives the bread of life of life and living water as reward or wage for doing His work or His word. Adam did the work of Satan, instead of the work of God, so God kicked him far away from the tree of life and made sure he would never be able to get to the tree of life. Jesus Christ stoutly rejected the work of Satan and did the work of God to the full; God raised him to the highest possible spiritual level.

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1Jn. 5:19 We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.

Ga. 6:14 May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

In order to obtain the power of resurrection, we must fellowship with Jesus in the carrying of the cross and by dying to the world.

1Jn. 2:15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

1Jn. 2:16 For everything in the world — the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does — comes not from the Father but from the world.

1Jn. 2:17 The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

What is your reason for residing in the town or city where you reside? Is it so that you could acquire the best of worldly possessions or so that you can grow optimally in the spirit? Does your job enable you to acquire the best of the world or to grow maximally in the spirit? What of the people you associate with, do they impede or enhance your spiritual growth? Does the church you belong to and your lifestyle generally help you to endear yourself to the word of God? Your answers to these questions are indications of how well you could grow in the Spirit.

Mt. 7:13 “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.

Mt. 7:14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Mt. 13:45 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls.

Mt. 13:46 When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

Jn. 6:27 Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.”