

CONVERSATION GUIDE:

OPENING QUESTIONS:

- How important is the word “resurrection” to your understanding of faith?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Paul distinguishes between resurrection as “a fact to be believed” and “an experience to connect with.” Why are both aspects important?
- What do you think Paul means by “knowing” Christ? How is this different from simply knowing about Him?
- How might the perspective of seeing everything through Christ change how you approach different areas of life (relationships, work, decisions, hardships)?
- Paul says he wants to share in Christ’s sufferings and become like Him in his death. Why would suffering be connected to experiencing resurrection power? Does this challenge your view of the Christian life?
- How does the reality of Jesus being physically alive (not just His teachings or spirit living on) make Christianity different from other religions? What implications does this have for our faith?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

- What might be competing with Christ as your highest ambition? What would it look like to “count all things as loss” compared to knowing Him?
- How can you cultivate a deeper personal relationship with Jesus beyond just intellectual knowledge about Him?

GROUP FOCUS:

- Take time as a group to reflect on how you’ve experienced the power of Christ’s resurrection in your lives. Share testimonies of how Jesus has brought new life to areas that once seemed dead—whether in character transformation, healing of relationships, or renewed purpose



WEEK 20 THE JOY OF RESURRECTION (PHILIPPIANS 3:10–11)

TODAY'S VERSES:

Philippians 3:10-11 Acts 26:26
John 11:25-26 2 Corinthians 3:18
1 Corinthians 15:3-8

JUNE 8, 2025

WEEK 20

THE JOY OF RESURRECTION

Paul makes a passionate declaration in Philippians 3:10-11 about knowing Christ and the power of His resurrection. The Christian doctrine of resurrection has two essential components: it is a historical fact to be believed and a personal experience to be lived. When we separate these aspects, we end up with "form without power"—either intellectual orthodoxy without relationship, or vague spirituality without a historical foundation.

Form without Power – in 1 Corinthians 15:3-8 Paul says that anybody who wants to examine the evidence of resurrection can do so because there are over 500 people, most of whom are still alive, who witnessed it; it is public fact. If someone thinks the resurrection is only some kind of spiritual experience, but not a historical fact, then you have a religion of form without power.

On the opposite extreme is the belief about the resurrection being true, but an absence of surrender to Jesus and spiritual resurrection; that is also a religion of form without power. Have we experienced new life in Jesus AND do we believe the resurrection was a historical event?

The nature of the experience – to know Him and the power of His resurrection. To be a Christian is not simply to believe in a set of propositions; it is so much more. We say, "I count everything as loss *in comparison* with my number one ambition: to know Christ and the power of His resurrection." Passion for Christ is like glasses. A person with a passion for Christ isn't necessarily always talking about Christ but is looking at everything *through* Christ. Is that true of us?

To know Him (and the power of His resurrection) – This means to have personal interaction with Him. A Christian counts everything as rubbish compared to the surpassing worth of "knowing" Jesus. The difference between knowing Christ and knowing the power of His resurrection is the difference between knowing a person and resembling a person. The power of "His resurrection" is that the Holy Spirit that took Jesus' dead body and raised it up, is now available to come and raise up our own dead soul. This is not talking about the relationship; it is talking about supernatural character growth.

The reality is that Jesus is already the world's ONLY hope; ultimately, we must evaluate whether we personally live and trust in Him. When we trust in Jesus, we become regenerated. Think of what our life would look like if we took criticism like Christ, if we had courage like Christ, and if we loved truth and compassion like Jesus. When we go out into the world resembling Jesus (by the power of the resurrection), we begin to live like Him.

Paul's statement reveals that his highest ambition had shifted from his impressive credentials to knowing Christ intimately. This "knowing" involves personal interaction with Jesus and experiencing the transformative power that raised Him from the dead working in our own lives.