

# Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion

**Date** : 6 Aug 2023  
**Sermon Title** : That I May Know Him  
**Speaker** : Rev Shannon Chan  
**Text** : Philippians 3:10

---

## INTRODUCTION

Philippians 3:10 is the anchor verse for Pastor Shannon's call to full-time ministry.

*"that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.." (NKJV)*

Apostle Paul in this verse, reveals how absolutely committed he was to the Lord Jesus. Take note that in that one verse, 4 times Paul uses "Him, His, His, His", showing a passionate outpouring of his heart to the One who laid hold of him and he focuses all of these in the heartfelt assertion that "I may know Him".

## KNOWING YOU JESUS

The word "know" (*Gk. gnōnai*) means:

- to know by experience
- a yearning for experiential knowledge
- knowing and experiencing Christ deeply and fully as Lord and Lover of our souls

The lyrics of Graham Kendrick's hymn, "Knowing You Jesus", considered one of the most theologically sound contemporary hymns, starts with repentance in the first verse, and the refrain (chorus) utters a complete self-abandonment, devotion and a desire to know the Lord:

*All I once held dear, built my life upon  
All this world reveres and wars to own;  
All I once thought gain I have counted loss,  
Spent and worthless now compared to this.  
Chorus: Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You  
There is no greater thing  
You're my all, You're the best  
You're my joy, my righteousness,  
And I love You Lord.*

This echoes:

- Paul's desire to know Christ by entering into the deepest possible union with Him, the One inexhaustible person who will never fail or disappoint.
- In Jesus Christ, Paul is complete.

---

*For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7*

# **Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion**

## **KNOW THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION**

The word “power” (*Gk. dunamis*) means dynamite. The resurrection (*Gk. anastasis*) power describes an incomparably great power that brought Jesus back to life from the dead and operates in every true believer in Christ. (Ephesians 1:18-21)

- This incomparable power dwells and resides in every true believer.
- This power can overcome sin and death and its potency exceeds any military might.

Pastor Ray Stedman quantifies this power “*It is power perfectly adequate for every circumstance. It is confidently acting in full assurance that He is acting with us simultaneously and that risen power is ours!*”. Another speaker and writer, T Austin Sparks summarises that this resurrection power is “for endurance, for overcoming, for fulfilment of ministry, for maintaining the Lord’s testimony in a difficult world for every need that demands it in relation to the interest and glory of Christ. It puts life on a supernatural basis and is the greatest miracle in history.”

## **KNOW THE FELLOWSHIP OF HIS SUFFERINGS**

The word “fellowship” (*Gk. koinonia*) means joint partnership and deep communion of suffering that is shared with Christ.

- Paul realised that profound communion with Jesus came primarily through suffering.
- He wanted to be in such invisible union with Christ, so he could respond like Jesus to inevitable opposition, hostility, persecutions and sufferings that he knew would come his way
- Paul knows that abuses he received through no fault or sin of his own will invariably draw him close to the Lord.

G Campbell Morgan reminds us:

*“Do not miss the blessedness of the fact that the fellowship of His sufferings means that He has fellowship with us. When I enter into the fellowship of His sufferings I am not alone, for He is forever with me. I can endure no pain for Him that He does not share with me. When I stand in the presence of sin and suffer – if I have climbed high enough, in that moment He is with me, He is feeling the same pain, He is suffering with me. My fellowship with Him means His fellowship with me.”*

## **BEING CONFORMED TO HIS DEATH**

The word “conformed” (*Gk. summorphoo*) means bringing to the same form with Christ. “Form” here means to give outward expression of one’s inner intrinsic nature.

- Paul wanted to be brought to the same form with Christ where both his inner heart life and its outward expression were like unto his Lord.

---

*For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7*

# **Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion**

- Although Paul would not be able to emulate precisely Christ's physical death which was for others, it was Jesus' death to Himself that Paul was pursuing.

Lay Pastor Cole Newton describes such a posture:

*"Just as Jesus took the form of a servant when dying for us on the cross, so we are conformed to Him through our sufferings for the gospel. In this way, the life of a Christian is cruciform. We live in the shadow and shape of the cross, and it impacts every aspect and facet of our lives."*

Paul lived a cross-shaped life in profound communion with Christ, through invisible union with Christ in the face of unjust sufferings. May we too desire the same, to be irresistibly drawn with the one consuming passion to know Christ because even in the difficulties we face, we will experience what John Wesley shared through his experience, "The best of all is God is with us." God has been with us in the past, is with us in the present and will always be with us in the future.

## **CONCLUSION**

Everyone who professes the name of Jesus Christ and is a child of God is called to serve the Lord full-time although not everyone is called to full-time ministry in a church, para-church or ministry agency. Not everyone is called to be a pastor, just like not every pastor is called by the Lord to be a senior pastor or a pastor-in-charge. The Lord's clarion call to each one of us will be different. If we sense a clarion call from the Lord, seek a conversation with any of our church's pastors to discern the Lord's journey for us individually. Our response will be part of our journey that we may know Christ completely, love Him supremely, follow Him fully all the days of our lives.

---

*For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7*

# **Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion**

## **A. Review Sermon Application**

***Purpose: Reflect on how you have been embodying God's truth.***

- 1a. How successful have you been in fulfilling what you/your group had committed to do for the last FaithWalk?
- 1b. What were some challenges you faced and what would you like to celebrate?

2. Take two minutes each to read Philippians 3:10 quietly and reflect on the verse.

Share in discussion:

- a. How well do you feel you know Christ Jesus, your Lord?
- b. How can your group members help or encourage each other to know Christ Jesus more?

---

*For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7*



# Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion

## **C. Testimonies, Prayers and Action**

***Purpose: Give glory to God, seek Him and embody His Word.***

5. Everyone who professes the name of Jesus Christ and is a child of God is called to serve the Lord full-time although not everyone is called to full-time ministry in a church, para-church or ministry agency. Share a personal testimony of how you responded to God's call for you to serve Him full-time. How has your response shaped your relationship with God?

6. Take time to pray for each other, surrendering to God all that every member has committed to do. Seek the Lord together and ask for the Holy Spirit's guidance and affirmation if anyone in your group has heard God's clarion call to enter into full-time ministry for Christ. Consider the person's spiritual gifts and talents and seek a pastor's advice together.

Pray for our church to be able to discern God's clarion call and also be willing to seek, explore and commit to die to self for the passion to know Christ.

### Optional items:

Suggested worship songs:

1. Hosanna (Praise is Rising) – Paul Baloche <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yFD3X-Sh6K4>
2. A Thousand Hallelujahs – Brooke Ligertwood [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vR\\_sl9lkowA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vR_sl9lkowA)
3. Reward – Josh Yeoh <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-uGMWCWkAI>

---

*For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7*