

## **Do You Know Him?**

Philippians 3:7-11

How far have you gone in your relationship with God? The devil would like for us to believe that we can do nothing spiritually and yet, prosper spiritually. It is dangerous to believe that we know as much about God as we will ever know and that we are as close to God as we will ever be. It is dangerous to fail to seek spiritual guidance, renewal, growth, and revelation from the scriptures. In addition, it would be ridiculous to think that God is not calling each one of us to a deeper, more personal relationship with Himself.

In his sermon, Chosen to Change the Atmosphere, T.D. Jakes addresses the overconfident attitude of many concerning their relationship with God. He states that, *“Perhaps the greatest deception that Satan has released on this generation is a false sense of security and contentment”*. He goes on to say. *“The problem with this generation is that we have decided that we know God. We do not know God. We know church. We know protocol. We know Greek. We know Hebrew. And we know each other. But...we do not know God. I wonder do you know Him?”*

The point is, that there is such depth to the character of God and such depth to an experience with God, that to think we have gone far enough in our relationship with the Lord is a great error in judgment.

The apostle Paul, a man who surely had a genuine experience with God, expresses his great desire to further his knowledge of his Lord and Savior when he says in our text, “That I may know Him. “It was his desire to have a full and complete relationship with Jesus Christ.

Having a Personal Experience is to understand...

When I am weak He is strong  
When I fall He lifts me  
When I fail He forgives me  
When I am lost he's the way  
When I'm afraid God is my courage  
When I stumble He steadies me  
When I hurt He heals me  
When I am broken He mends me  
When I am blind He leads me  
When I am hungry He feeds me  
When I face trials God is with me  
When I am persecuted He shields me  
When I face loss He provides for me

To know the Lord in the way that Paul wanted to know the Lord was to live in the victory of truly knowing God and understanding the power of Christ's resurrection. Paul not only wanted to know the God and His power, but he also wanted to know the fellowship of

Christ sufferings.

And the word “fellowship” implies the idea of joint participation. Paul was simply saying if it means that I have to suffer for the cause of Christ in order to develop a closer relationship with the Lord **SO BE IT!**

Paul wanted to know the fellowship of the Lord’s sufferings (And you’ll find by studying the life of the apostle Paul - Paul most certainly did.

And then Paul said at the later portion of verse #10, “I’m willing to be made conformable to his death if it means a more personal relationship with the Lord”. The word conform means to bring to the same form to some other person. And the death that Paul was referring to in verse #10 was the death of Christ. A death that exemplified total selflessness.

What a statement then! Paul was simply saying, **“I don’t want my life to revolve around me - I want my life to revolve around HIM!**

That’s what persuaded Paul to say in Galatians 2:20, *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”*