

Philippians 3:10–14 ¹⁰ *That I [Paul] may know him [Jesus], and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death [that I can share the death that He died on my behalf];* ¹¹ *If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead [because I also want to share in His resurrection from the dead].* ¹² *Not as though I had already attained [Not because I have already become like Christ], either were already perfect [nor have I already become completely mature in my own walk with Christ]: but I follow after [Him], if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus [that I may never stop wanting to be more like Christ, because that is pleasing to Him].* ¹³ *Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended [Friends, I have not fully become like Christ]: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind [forgetting all those mistakes I've made in the past], and reaching forth unto those things which are before [and knowing I want serve Him better in the future],* ¹⁴ *I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus [because the life that God wants me to live in Christ Jesus is the goal of my life, the best prize I can ever win].*

I. Introduction

A. Basic foundations

1. Example 1: family
2. Example 2: neighbor
3. Example 3: society
4. Example 3: relationship with God

B. Jesus asked his disciples, “Who do man say that I am?” (Matthew 16:13)

C. Relationship with Jesus Christ is first foundation with God

1 Corinthians 3:11 *For other **foundation** [for a Christian's life] can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

D. Jesus is the cornerstone of the church & salvation is only found in the name of Jesus

Acts 4:11–12 *This is **the stone** [Jesus] which was set at nought of you builders [which was judged worthless by all you religious leaders], which is become the head of the corner [which is now the most important stone].* ¹² *Neither is there salvation in any other [than Christ]: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

E. Before anything built, must first have a strong foundation

2 Timothy 2:19 *Nevertheless the **foundation** of God standeth sure, having this seal [God's truth is firm like a strong foundation with these two inscriptions:], "The Lord knoweth them that are his" And, "Let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity."*

II. Relationship Is Personal

A. Relationship with Jesus is not a building, church, or denomination

B. Know His person

1. verse 10: "...*That I [Paul] may know him [Jesus]...*"

2. Christian to grow & to know Christ personally

1 John 4:7–9 *Beloved, let us [Christians] love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. ⁸He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. ⁹In this was manifested the love of God toward us [This is the way God showed His love toward us], because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.*

3. Greek word 'to know' is "ginozco" meaning to know personally

a. I know about the President of the United States

b. But I do not know the President personally

4. Talk to God (pray)

5. Grow to know Him (read the Bible)

C. Know His power

1. verse 10-11: "...*That I [Paul] may know...the power of his [Jesus'] resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; ¹¹If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead...*"

2. Greek word 'power' is "dunamis" meaning dynamite power

3. God's blessings come after God's testing

4. God promises that Christian who has pure heart will see God

Matthew 5:8 *Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.*

5. Christian life always lived in God's power

2 Corinthians 13:4 *For though he [Jesus] was crucified through weakness, yet **he liveth by the power of God**. For we also are weak in him, but **we shall live with him by the power of God** toward you.*

6. Gospel is God's testimony of power that Jesus died for my sins, was buried, & came alive again the third day

1 Corinthians 2:1–5 *And I [Paul], brethren [the Corinthian Christians], when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of **wisdom** [I didn't come to you with fancy speaking or philosophical wisdom, but], *declaring unto you the testimony of God.* ²*For I determined not to know anything among you, save [except] Jesus Christ, and him crucified.* ³*And I was with you [And I would speak to you] in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.* ⁴*And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's **wisdom**, but in demonstration of the [Holy] Spirit and of power:* ⁵*That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.**

D. Know His presence

1. verse 12: "...but I follow after [Him]..."
2. Greek word for 'fellowship' is "koinonia" meaning fellowship, or participant in a group
3. Fellowship of His suffering
 - a. Participate in Jesus' suffering when He went to the cross
 - b. Jesus learned obedience to God through his trials
Hebrews 5:8 *Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;*

4. Fellowship of His service

- a. Jesus knows your sufferings & He will never leave you or forsake you
Psalm 9:10 *And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.*
- b. Christian can give comfort to those who are hurting
2 Corinthians 1:4 *Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.*

III. Relationship Is Powerful

A. Promise of resurrection

1. verse 11: "...I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead..."
2. Hope of heaven in the future

1 Peter 1:3 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

3. Help of heaven in this present life

2 Peter 1:3–4 *According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: ⁴Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

4. Paradox of Christian living

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.*

B. Process of transformation

1. verse 12: “...*Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after [Him], if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus...*”

2. Growing in the likeness of Jesus

a. Christian still has sinful problems in life

b. Christian does not have “sinless perfection” in this life

c. Christian has humble attitude to continue to grow in Christ

3. Greek word ‘transform’ is “metamorphosis” like caterpillar transformed into butterfly

4. Christian life to resemble life of Christ – conformed to image of His Son

Romans 8:29–30 *For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified...*

IV. Relationship Is Perpetual

A. verse 13 “... *this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind [forgetting all those mistakes I’ve made in the past], and reaching forth unto those things which are before [and knowing I want serve Him better in the future],*”

B. He Recognized His Position

1. Paul knew his past life (his past failures)

1 Corinthians 15:9 *For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.*

2. Every Christian also knew his past

3. Person cannot escape their past

C. He released His past

1. Paul looked to Jesus

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

2. Focus on Jesus Himself, rather than your past

D. He reached for the prize

1. verse 14 *“¹⁴I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus* [because the life that God wants me to live in Christ Jesus is the goal of my life, the best prize I can ever win].

2. Continue to grow in Christ showing a changed life

3. Continue to reach out to every other person with the gospel of Christ

V. Conclusion

A. Meet Jesus at the foot of the cross

B. Grow & learn to know Jesus personally

C. Leave your past at the foot of the cross

D. Focus on Jesus & reach forward toward Christ