

A Strong Connection

“...that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection.” Phil. 3:10

I am sure we have all experienced it. After spending a lot of time and energy and making sure everything was in its place, the time had come to flip the switch on the string of lights that I had carefully and thoughtfully put on my house and front lawn. I was ready to stand back and take it all in. For sure, I was expecting great things. But when the time had come to flip the switch and turn on the lights - nothing. Muttering to myself that I had already invested too much time in this annual project, I set out to begin the second phase of this task – checking all my connections to find the reason for the lack of power. Going up and down the line, I pushed and tugged at every connection to make sure it was secure and to locate any lights that might be missing or burned out. When I located the problem, I found that there was indeed a loose connection that needed my attention. Everything appeared to be in order, but it was not. However, when the adjustment was made, what a difference! There was bright light and the personal satisfaction that my efforts were not in vain.

A Poor Connection

It is not too hard to see the parallel, is it? For many of us (writer included), there were many a time we were expecting great things from the Lord, but it was just not happening. Everything has been laid out and *seems* to be in order: regular attendance at our local fellowship, involvement in Christian service and ministry, and even regular prayer and the personal Bible study. Even though it looks like everything is in order, something is not right. Maybe there is a lack of power from a poor connection. Maybe there is a need to go up and down the line of our lives to check if every connection is as secure as it should be, and if any adjustment needs to be made.

A Strong Connection

When it comes to being properly connected to the Lord, the word of God gives us some sound advice. Paul’s aspiration as he expressed it to the Philippians was that he might *“know Him [Christ] and the power of His resurrection”*, Phil. 3:10. Peter exhorted his readers to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus (1 Peter 3:15). Paul’s continual desire was to grow in the knowledge of the Lord and then have that knowledge translate into spiritual strength. This was his goal even though he had come to Christ many years before. He was not stagnant in his faith, but always pressing toward the mark. He had received abundant revelation so much so that he received a “thorn in the flesh” to keep him humble and dependent on the Lord. The thorn was given lest he become spiritually proud, and “exalted above measure”, 2 Cor. 12:7. Despite the abundance of knowledge he had in the doctrines of the faith and the experiences in the service of the Lord that accompanied them (read 2 Cor. 11:23-28 for a list of some of them), his greatest desire was still to know the Lord better.

Paul expressed this same thing in writing to the Colossians. He prayed that they too would be *“filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding”* and that they would *“walk worthy of the Lord being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God”*, Col. 1:9-10. He desired that they would deepen their walk with the Lord experientially and that they would be strengthened with all might. He prayed the same thing for the Christians at Ephesus that they might know *“what is the hope of His calling, and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe”*, Eph. 1:18-19. The next words are telling... *“according to the might power which He wrought in Christ when he raised*

Him from the dead” (v. 20). It was a prayer for them to know the Lord and the power of His resurrection. This is the strength that comes when walking in the likeness of His resurrection, Romans 6:5. What might that strength look like? Perhaps it manifested itself in boldness in their public witness for Christ or stepping out in faith to do great things for Him. It can mean the same thing for us with whatever task the Lord gives us to do. But if we are to expect to do great things for Him because of the great things He has done for us, it requires a strong connection to make sure the current of God’s power and strength is flowing through us. For that to be done there might need to be some adjustments made to secure those connections.

Any Connection?

We at Cornerstone Magazine when establishing this ministry, set the goals as seen on the cover page “Exalting Christ, Equipping Believers, Evangelizing the World”. Our goal is to proclaim the Name of the Lord and to declare that He is the only remedy for fallen humanity. We also have a desire to strengthen believers in their faith and walk with the Lord. But we also have as our goal to share the good news of the Gospel to those that do not know Him as their personal Lord and Savior. We are keenly aware of the fact that this magazine finds itself in the hands of those around the globe, some of whom do not know Him but are as busy as ever in religious activities. Like Saul of Tarsus, who later came to be known as Paul, they pride themselves on their religious affiliation and spiritual heritage (Phil. 3:4-8) as if that qualified them in the sight of God and connected them to heaven. Everything looked properly laid out for Saul, but there was no spiritual light at all. If this is your situation, we invite you to turn to Him by faith so that the light of Christ will instantly begin shining in your life to the glory of God.

*“Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport when Jesus we see”*

Fanny Crosby