

Are you looking for the power to serve Him effectively? Are you thinking of the needs of this/^{world} and the needs of this area, the needs of the town, the needs of the state, the needs of the country, the needs of the whole world. Looking for power. J'hn Knox, they say, prayed and cried, O God give me Scotland, give me Scotland. And God gave him Scotland, and a nation was changed.

As one man said to me, a nation ~~fix~~ fighting and squabbling, and fussing about every thing, all broken up and divided became a nation that stood for God and was ready when that terrible "killing time" as they called it came, people were ready to stand and die for Christ because they knew the power of His resurrection. Do you know the power of His resurrection? Is that power active in your life? We cannot know it entirely. We have to learn it every day--the power of His resurrection. The willingness to recognize our own errors, our weakness, our insufficiencies and to look to Him to show us where we need improvement, how we need to change, what we need to do in order to make ourselves truly effective servants of His. Oh, how many a person has gone through a training to serve the Lord and gone out and seemed to serve Him wonderfully for a while and then fallen into sin. Fallen into various sins that the world looks down upon, and many falling into what is perhaps the worst sin of all, the sin of pride. How easy it is to get hold of us.

But we should turn and call upon Christ and use the power of His resurrection to enable us truly to accomplish what He wants us to accomplish. It is even a shame when you look at fine Christian institutions for Christian training to think of the number of people who graduate and a few years later are not in active Christian service. This is true of

just about every institution there is. You take just the group here. If you take everyone here was completely yielded to Christ and if everyone here knew the power of His resurrection, this group here could turn the world upside down. The power of Jesus is limitless. But alas how little we avail ourselves of His power. Paul wanted to know Christ and the power of His resurrection. Are you looking to truly know Christ and the power of His resurrection in every aspect of your life, and your activities?

And then what seems incongruous to us, what seems strange, what seems perhaps we are not quite so ready to get enthused about as the power of His resurrection--the verse goes on "to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings." The fellowship of His sufferings. We don't want to suffer. We all hate the thought of suffering. Yet the Apostle speaks of knowing the fellowship of sharing in His suffering. Even Jesus Christ, apart from the suffering He did on the cross, the suffering that won us our salvation, we read in Heb. 5:8 "Although he was a Son, He learned obedience from what He suffered." This, of course, does not refer to His death on the cross. He certainly had learned obedience before that, but it refers to His early life. He the great Lord of the universe, He the eternal Son of God came down and lived in the privations of a human life, lived there for 30 years subject to His parents. Lived there enduring the hardships and privations of human life at that time. He learned obedience from what he suffered. Heb. 2:10 says it was fitting that God should make the Author of their salvation perfect through suffering. Even He had to be prepared for His great work.

He was made perfect through suffering. We cannot understand the nature of the Godhead. We cannot understand how it could be that when Jesus Christ was controlling the stars in their orbit and directing the universe, he could at the same time be a babe in Bethlehem crying for his milk. But the Bible teaches the two natures of Christ. Jesus Christ as the great Lord of the universe, Jesus Christ as the God-Man had to learn and to be made perfect through suffering. How much more do we need to be made perfect through suffering?