

# *Shadows Of Christ & His Bride*

Lesson #25

Attaining The Out Resurrection

July 10, 2024

Tozer: "The average, modern Christian is not Christlike. He is quick to defend his flaws, his weaknesses and defeats in fiery, red-faced indignation!

I am amazed that Christians can continue to read the strong appeals of the Lord Jesus Christ and the apostles throughout the New Testament for more earnest spiritual desire - and still want to put on the brakes.

They reject the true concept of Christianity:

Our spiritual life is a battlefield and a preparation for a greater life to come.

If the cross of Jesus Christ means what it should to us and we know that we must carry it and die on it and rise and live above it, we will have a constant desire to advance and gain spiritual ground. The writer of Hebrews admonishes us to 'Press on to maturity.'"

## *Believers Are On Resurrection Ground*

Phil. 3:10-15 That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death;

<sup>11</sup> If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

<sup>12</sup> Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

<sup>13</sup> Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

<sup>14</sup> I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

<sup>15</sup> Let us therefore, as many as be perfect [mature], be thus minded:

and if in anything you be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.

Jerry Bridges This is the heartbeat of the godly person. As he contemplates God in the awesomeness of His infinite majesty, power, and holiness, and then as he dwells upon the riches of His mercy and grace poured out at Calvary, his heart is captivated by this One who could love him so. He is satisfied with God alone, but he is never satisfied with his present experience of God. He always yearns for more. [Transformational Thoughts for Your Spiritual Journey]

The goal of the Christian life is to KNOW CHRIST and be conformed to His image. Someone has wisely pointed out, "One of the most dangerous forms of human error is forgetting what one is trying to achieve."

Christianity is definitely *not* a religion of rules and rituals that we must work at keeping in order to climb the ladder to heaven. Rather, it is a personal, growing relationship with the risen, living Lord Jesus Christ that results in our growing conformity to Him.

Cole: Do you often make time to spend with the Lord? It's sure easy for that first love to cool off, and time between you and the Lord gets squeezed out with other things. Or, it becomes your duty to have a quiet time, so you get out your Bible, grimace, and swallow a chapter a day to keep the devil away. But there wasn't any love in it. You weren't seeking to know Christ in a more intimate way. You weren't opening your heart to Him, so that He could confront you and cleanse you and make you more like Himself. There's no closeness, no intimacy.

Caution: It's possible to gain knowledge about Christ through studying His Word, and yet not grow to know Christ Himself through His Word. In fact, you can read and study your Bible all your life and never get to know Jesus in an intimate way!

John 14:21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will reveal Myself to him.

If you don't know the Word, you neither have nor keep Jesus' commandments.

It's possible to have them through knowledge, but not keep them.

If you want Jesus to reveal Himself to you, you must both have and keep His commandments.

How does the Apostle John say we know Christ? Obedience.

I John 2:3 And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.

The goal of Bible study is always growing obedience so that we can get to know the Lord Jesus better.

Seekers of Your heart: Until we give You first place, until we let You begin

To fill us with Your Spirit, renew us from within, Nothing matters, Nothing's gained.

Without Your holy presence, our lives are lived in vain.

Because Your heart was broken, because You saw the need. Because You gave so freely,

Because of Calvary. We can now be called Your own; completed creations, filled with You alone.

Lord, we want to know You, live our lives to show You; all the love we owe You,

We're seekers of Your heart.

How did Paul say he knew Christ? He counted all things loss.

Phil 3:8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

Spurgeon: Paul became a holy walker, and a heavenly runner, because of what he saw in Christ Jesus. Be sure of this, that the less you value your own righteousness, the more will you seek after true holiness; the less you think of your own beauty, the more ardently will you long to become like the Lord Jesus.

Phil. 3:10a That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, Paul knew the power of the resurrected Lord when he was struck down on the Damascus Road. Barclay: There's no power in the law. There's no power to overcome sin in my flesh. There's no real power for spiritual service in my flesh. There's no power for victory in my flesh. There's no power for witnessing in my flesh. He says I've been operating without power and now I see all the power in Christ. Conversion is described as:

- opening the eyes of the blind so they can turn from darkness to light. Acts 26:18
- delivering captives from Satan's domain to God's kingdom. Col. 1:13

All conversions require the same mighty power of the risen Lord Jesus Christ, because they all require God to raise the sinner from spiritual death to spiritual life [Eph. 2:4-6].

Key: That same resurrection power is necessary to sustain the believer as he walks in victory over sin and lives as an overcomer in Christ.

Eph. 1:19-20 Paul prays they would know: what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power,

<sup>20</sup> Which he wrought in Christ, when He raised him from the dead, and set Him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,

Eph. 3:16-17 that God "would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man; so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith."

Rom. 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you. The Holy Spirit, whose power was necessary to defeat Satan by raising Jesus from the dead, indwells every believer to give us power over indwelling sin. We experience this power as we walk moment by moment yielded to and in dependence on the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Gal. 5:16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

- If we live defeated lives, we are not living in dependence on the Holy Spirit.
- We must learn to live experientially in power of Christ's resurrection.

Tozer: The Holy Spirit is our cloud by day and our fire by night. Without Him, we only wander aimlessly about the desert.

That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, Jesus' entire ministry was marked by misunderstanding, opposition, betrayal, and death.

I Peter 2:20-21 For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted [harshly treated] for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. <sup>21</sup> For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

Heb. 5:8 "Jesus learned obedience through the things He suffered."

This does not mean Jesus was disobedient and had to learn to be obedient through suffering. His suffering for our sins on the cross was the ultimate test of His submission to the will of the Father. If we are to be like Him, we must also learn to obey God through suffering.

We have the powerful force of indwelling sin to contend with. God uses suffering to burn off the dross and purify us. But we must cooperate with Him by humbling ourselves under His mighty hand when we go through trials, trusting His sovereignty over our suffering, and casting all our cares on Him [I Pet. 5:6-11].

Fellowship points to closeness or intimacy. Though few of us American Christians know it, those who suffer because of their faith in Christ know a special intimacy with Him.

Paul was preaching in Corinth and was afraid. The Lord appeared to him in a vision and said, Acts 18:9-10 Do not be afraid any longer but go on speaking and do not be silent; for I am with you, and no man will attack you in order to harm you, for I have many people in this city.

#### To Be Like Christ Requires: Being Conformed To His Death.

Paul describes this as dying to sin and self through the cross of Christ. When we trust in Christ, we are placed "in Christ," which means that we are identified with Him in His death and resurrection. We have to live experientially what is true of us positionally.

Gal. 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself up for me.

In Col. 3:1-4, Paul explains how we have died and been raised up with Christ.

He then exhorts us to "put to death" the members of our bodies regarding various sins.

Luke 9:23 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me,

let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

Key: To the degree we learn to die to self and sin by being conformed to His death, to the same degree we grow to be like Him.

In Philippians 3:11 we have our first unfolding of the gravity of the words:

If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

IF = Strong's #1487 = conditional conjunction > should *not* be translated "since,"

but rather always "if" - since the assumption may only be *portrayed* as valid [true, factual].

Paul counted all things but loss for Christ. Then, he had specified his ambition to know Christ, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable to His death - all of this is included in the words, "if by any means."

Thus, there was no length to which Paul was not ready and willing to go,

that he might attain the out-resurrection; the resurrection of the dead.

2 Greek words for resurrection:

1. Anastasis = G386 = resurrection; raised to life again; rising from the dead

- Compound word: ana = up                      stasis = to rise or stand
- A resumption of life, allowing one to rise up or stand up from the place of death

The resurrection, anastasis, of Christians will be a separation of "the dead in Christ" from the remainder of the dead.

I Thess. 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

The resurrection of all saints is "by grace" and is linked to our eternal salvation from sin. It is for ALL believers, apart from anything they are or do.

I Cor. 15:12-13 Now if Christ be preached that He rose from the dead,  
how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?

<sup>13</sup> But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:

I Cor. 15:21-22 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.  
For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

I Cor. 15:42 So also is the resurrection of the dead.

It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:

Consider: Paul is not talking about attaining unto the resurrection out of the dead.

He was positively assured of that resurrection because he was a believer.

The resurrection out of the dead ones is not an attainment at all.

It is for ALL believers.

Seeking to attain resurrection is sheer folly because it is assured by God's unerring promise.

Consider: Paul wanted to attain unto something to which all saints will not attain.

- the exanastasis which, literally, is the out-resurrection, out of the dead.

2. Exanastasis = #1815 > ex > a rising up out of or from

- Only place used in the New Testament is in Philippians 3:11.
- State or condition of coming up from among the dead

The latter two parts of the word, ana-stasis, mean "to rise up," or "to stand up."

- But the preposition ex [from ek] prefixed to anastasis adds a new dimension.
- The first part, ex, means "out of,"  
making exanastasis mean "to stand up out of; out-resurrection.

In Phil. 3:10-15, the "resurrection of the dead" [lit., out-resurrection] in verse 11 appears in connection with "the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" in verse 14.

Consider: A prize necessitates a conflict, which has to do with the present conflict between Christians and the world-rulers of the darkness of this age [Ephesians 6:12ff].

The reception of this prize requires victory or overcoming in the conflict.

The subject at hand is "overcoming," "winning a prize in a conflict." These things are associated with the issues of the Judgment Seat and Christ's coming kingdom. The word exanastasis has to do with certain Christians, the overcomers, being elevated to a status above — "a standing up out of" — the status occupied by the remaining Christians, the non-overcomers.

Consequently, the "out-resurrection" of Phil.3:11 cannot be the resurrection of all Christians to which Paul refers in I Cor. 15:51-57 and I Thess. 4:13-18. Why?

ALL "the dead in Christ" — both the overcomers in the conflict and those who have been overcome in the conflict — will be raised from the dead at the time referred to in these verses.

➤ I Cor. 15:51-57 and I Thess. 4:13-18

We know the Lord will "descend from Heaven with a shout ... and the dead in Christ shall rise first." Paul could not have in mind a resurrection from the dead which he knew was His by God's unswerving promise and was for all believers.

At the time of the resurrection, anastasis, Christians will be separated from non-Christians. But at the time of the out-resurrection, exanastasis, certain Christians will be separated from other Christians. A smaller group will be separated from the one large group. It is the "standing up" of a particular group "out of" those previously raised from among the dead.

Illustration: Out of a crowd of people who are graduating, some may be called out of the crowd to receive special awards. These are still among the crowd of people who are graduating, even though they have been called out for a special position in that graduation.

Consider: The overcomers will "stand up out of" [exanastasis] the entire group that had previously "stood up" [anastasis] from among the dead.

Overcoming Christians will then be elevated to a standing above Christians who were overcome and, in this manner, will be set apart for the distinct purpose of occupying positions with Christ in the kingdom.

They will realize the "prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" [Phil. 3:14].

out-resurrection: To grasp the deeper gripping of this word, or rather of the combination of two words, we need to examine some other expressions in this same portion of Scripture.

Phil. 3:12a Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; [complete; mature] There was no certainty in Paul's mind, no assurance that he had attained. [might attain; v.11]

He knew Whom he had believed. He knew he was saved, and that he would be caught up into the air at Christ's coming. He knew that he had eternal life, and that he would inherit with all saints in light. However, he did not know, and neither do we any of us know what allotment will be ours at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Wiersbe: A divine dissatisfaction is essential for spiritual progress.

Key: There must be an awareness of the need to pursue the prize.

When Paul wrote "I have not already obtained and I am not already perfect," he had been a Christian for about 30 years. For three decades he had been intensely and faithfully pursuing the knowledge of Christ. He still wasn't there, but he was spiritually dissatisfied. It's like running after something that keeps moving further away from you. There is a continually increasing spiritual pursuit matched by a continually increasing dissatisfaction. Pursuit then of knowing Christ begins with an honest assessment of my imperfection. There should be in the life of every Christian a basic discontent.

Paul Billheimer in Overcomers Through The Cross, reminds us that just as God takes many years to produce an oak tree, He also takes a life time to mature a saint. Christian growth is a process that takes time.

An unripe apple is not fit to eat, but we should not therefore condemn it. It is not yet ready for eating because God is not done making it. It is a phase of its career and good in its place. There are no shortcuts to spiritual maturity.

To grasp the full meaning of this striking expression we need to study things with caution.

1. Consider the word "attain." In many Scriptures we find this desire of "attainment," or its parallels, expressed in various ways.

I Cor. 9: 24-27: One receives the prize.

So run, that ye may obtain. I there so run, ... so fight I.

II Cor. 5: 9-10 We labor that ... we may be accepted of Him. We must all appear.

That everyone may receive the things done in his body.

I Cor. 3: 10-15 Take heed how he buildeth.

Every man's work shall be made manifest. Saved; yet so as by fire.

Col. 3:24 Of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance.

For ye serve the Lord Christ.

II Tim. 4:5-8 Watch thou ... endure afflictions ... work. I have fought a good fight.

Henceforth there is laid up for me.

And not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing.

Heb. 3: 12, 14; 4:1 Take heed, brethren, lest ... We are made partakers of Christ if ...

Let us therefore fear, lest ...

II Pet. 1: 5, 10-11 Giving all diligence, add ... Make your calling and election sure.

For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly.

Rev. 3:5a He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment;

The Scriptures above, and many others, show us there is a place for each believer to have an ambition to attain [that is, 'to gain by effort'] something more than those things which lie in the realm of pure grace. Notice, also that all the 8 Scriptures, listed above, express things which are ours by attainment, and all look beyond to the day of the resurrection of saints, and the rewards then to be given out at The Judgment Seat of Christ.

Phil. 3:12b But I press on [follow after], that I may lay hold, apprehend of that, Christ-likeness, for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

I must make the maximum effort to pursue the prize. God's purpose in saving me [to be conformed to the image of His Son] should now become my purpose and pursuit.

You might become fully conformed to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. How few Christians have any such a yearning; let alone any such a "following after"? We can now understand many things in Paul's related sufferings for Christ, and many things in his faithful continuance in labors and travels abundant, that may have seemed strange before unto us. Am I pressing on, and on, and on, that it may be that I may attain to *exanastasis* group?

Phil. 3:13-14 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

➤ Single-minded [Wise] in pursuing the prize. Focus my concentration.

This one thing I do: To attain the out-resurrection was the "one thing" which he sought. Spiritually Motivated To Pursue The Prize.

"I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Greek kata = I bear down and I go after the goal.

This out-resurrection is something to be attained. Therefore, it is something for which we must strive, and press, with the spirit of, "This one thing I do." Why should the Lord not separate the faithful saints from the host of carnal saints who lived for the things of this world? As long as there is a just God in Heaven, He will not be unfaithful or unrighteous to forget the work and labor of love, which the valiant have shown towards His Name. Our God could never permit an equality, a "like reward," an equal inheritance among the spiritual and the carnal believers in the ages to come. Let us count all things as loss, as we press on to know Him, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, that we, also, may attain. Let us also say, in all sincerity, "this one thing I do."

He who has called us to maturity will do the work in us and through us as we abide in Him.

Paul wrote: That I may win Christ. yet he already had Christ!  
His longing: That I may be found in Him. yet he was already in Him!  
His desire: That I may know Him. yet he already knew Him!  
He testified: "I follow after; I press toward the mark. I have not obtained.  
I am striving to lay hold of that for which Christ laid hold on me."

AW Tozer To have found God and still pursue Him is the soul's paradox of love, scorned indeed by the too easily satisfied religionist, but justified in happy experience by the children of the burning heart.

Study the word Ekanastasis in the light of the context.

- If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.
- That I may apprehend that for which I was apprehended of Christ Jesus.
- Reaching forth unto those things which are before.
- Pressing toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

All these things are related to Christ's Second Advent, and with our standing before the Judgment Seat of Christ. All were God-given possibilities for the saints.

All are gracious, yet none of them are by grace alone.

These specific things all lay in the realm of rewards. They were to be given only to the ones who "attained" them, who pressed for them, who said, "This one thing I do." Rewards depend on the faith we hold, the deeds we do, the life we live, the obedience we render.

Paul agonized and strained every muscle of his being as he sought to win the prize of the high calling. He exhorted all of us to "lay aside every weight and RUN THE RACE." [Heb. 12:1]

Paul's desire was that we win.

I Tim. 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

The end of the race will be victory or defeat; overcomer or overtaken. The goal of the race is that we might become "partakers of His holiness; conformed to the image of Jesus Christ" [Heb. 12:10].

Sloth is a spiritual indifference or apathy that has many causes but may grow out of the belief that we've arrived and have no more ground to gain. Or, that we have little left to give.

"Apathy causes one to fall into a deep sleep. That soul will go hungry."

Consider: There it is: a spiritual lethargy that starves our souls. Slow down, we say to ourselves; you've given much. Isn't it time to refrain from further sacrifice? Spare yourself. Why go on reading, studying, pursuing God. Stop this strenuous following after.

This is not true. We can never stop growing toward God.

Holiness is a dynamic thing, a matter of motion. There is no static balance in the spiritual life.

We're either moving toward God or away from Him.

Gregory put it simply: "When the soul does not direct its efforts to higher things . . . it stoops to concern itself with low desires." When we fail to direct our passions toward heavenly things, we fall into ungodly desires. Bitter animosities demean us; irritability, petulance, impatience, and loss of temper degrade our souls.

We must never let up, for our adversary does not. He is working every moment to plague and blight our final years. We must pursue God and His righteousness with hearty energy to the end of our days.

This was Paul's driving compulsion: "To know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death." It must be ours as well.

Spurgeon:

Moreover, the apostle saw his crown, the crown of life that fadeth not away, hanging bright before his eyes. What, said he, shall tempt me from that path of which yon crown is the end? Heaven! is not this enough to make a man dash forward in the road thither? The end is glorious, what if the running be laborious? When there is such a prize to be had, who will grudge a struggle?

I wish I could stir you to a passionate longing after a gracious, consistent, godly life, yea, for an eminently, solidly, thoroughly devoted and consecrated life. You will grieve the Spirit if you walk inconsistently; you will dishonor the Lord that bought you; you will weaken the church; you will bring shame upon yourself. Even though you be "saved so as by fire," it will be an evil and a bitter thing to have in any measure departed from God.

Years ago, a group of Englishmen tried to conquer Mt. Everest. They pressed on against cold, wind, blizzards, and avalanches. When they came within 2,000 feet of the peak, they set up camp. Two men, Mallory and Irvine, eagerly pressed on, expecting to return in about 16 hours. They never came back. The official record said simply:

"When last seen, they were heading toward the summit."

Whatever the obstacles, let's keep pressing on in the upward call of God, trusting in Him and not ourselves.

At life's end, may it be said of me, "When last seen, she was heading toward the summit!"