



# The Flame

Issue 14 – April 29, 2015

from GCCN Prayer Ministries

(“I want to know Christ” part 3)

**“...becoming like him in his death”**

(The Apostle Paul – Philippians 3:10)

How well do you know those around you? Do you know about them or do you know them from personal experience?

When Paul declares that he wants to know Christ, the Greek word *ginosko* makes it clear that this is personal, experiential knowledge. And we need to note that Paul is not speaking before His conversion, so he is not talking about getting to know Christ to find salvation. This is the heart passion of the apostle to experience a deeper relationship with Christ.

He began with knowing Him through resurrection power. He then points to sharing in a fellowship of Christ’s suffering as part of His Body. Now he reaches even deeper and speaks of knowing Christ through “becoming like him in his death.”

This is not a conversation about experiencing the violence of crucifixion. Paul is determined to experience a relationship with Christ through sharing the very passion that led Christ to submit Himself to the pain, humiliation, rejection and suffering even unto death to provide redemption. Christ came into this world to sacrifice Himself for us.

Paul longs to live with that passion and purpose. He wants to have such a personal sense of Christ in his inner being that he too will be willing to die to his own interest, including his own self-preservation in order to bring others into the Body of Christ.

Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds (John 12:2).

## **Taking Your Next Step**

Prayer is an act of worship through which we seek to experience the presence of God more deeply every day. As you pray, no matter how often or when, adopt the posture of one who longs to be more and more like Christ. And tell Him so. Fervently and often.

Ask Him for His image to shine through you. Confess your need for Him to enable you to live out a selflessness that reflects His own. Seek to know Him so that you can selflessly share Him and His transforming grace in tangible and impactful ways with those around you.

**Jesus, Others, then You**  
**What a wonderful way to spell JOY!**