

lowship of his sufferings." It is not possible for you to enter into the sufferings of the Lord Jesus Christ here, unless you "know him, and the power of his resurrection."

Let me ask, What answers to a glorified Christ? A suffering, dependent people down here! And we are content to be a suffering people here in this world. Why? Because it conduces to Christ's glory. It conduces to His glory that His people should be a suffering people in the place where He was crucified—God forbid they should be anything else! It was the ruin of the testimony always, when people began looking for something here, something that the heart could rest upon, and that the eye could see, instead of just the fellowship of His sufferings: "That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death." Not, that I may lay hold of something, but that I may, by the grace of God, understand what He is, in His greatness, in His goodness, in His infinite love. What has He apprehended you for? To save you from hell? That is the poorest thing! It is a blessed mercy, surely, but is that all Christ died for? No! It is to have you for Himself, that He may be glorified thereby. He has laid hold of me for a purpose. We cannot perhaps express what that purpose is. We must know Himself, before we can know it; we must get near enough to Himself to know what that is, for which He has apprehended us (just as Mary could sit at His feet, and hear His word, and He would take care she should not be interrupted); letting Him pour into our souls what His blessed mind is. About *us*, and our ways down here? No! About *Himself* and His ways. Not about