

PRESSING ON IN 2009

Phil 3:10-15

Are you dreading 2009 because of the economy?

Do you expect 2009 to be any different from 2008 spiritually?

Are you locked into sin patterns and **staleness** that drain any hope of change and breakthroughs in the new year?

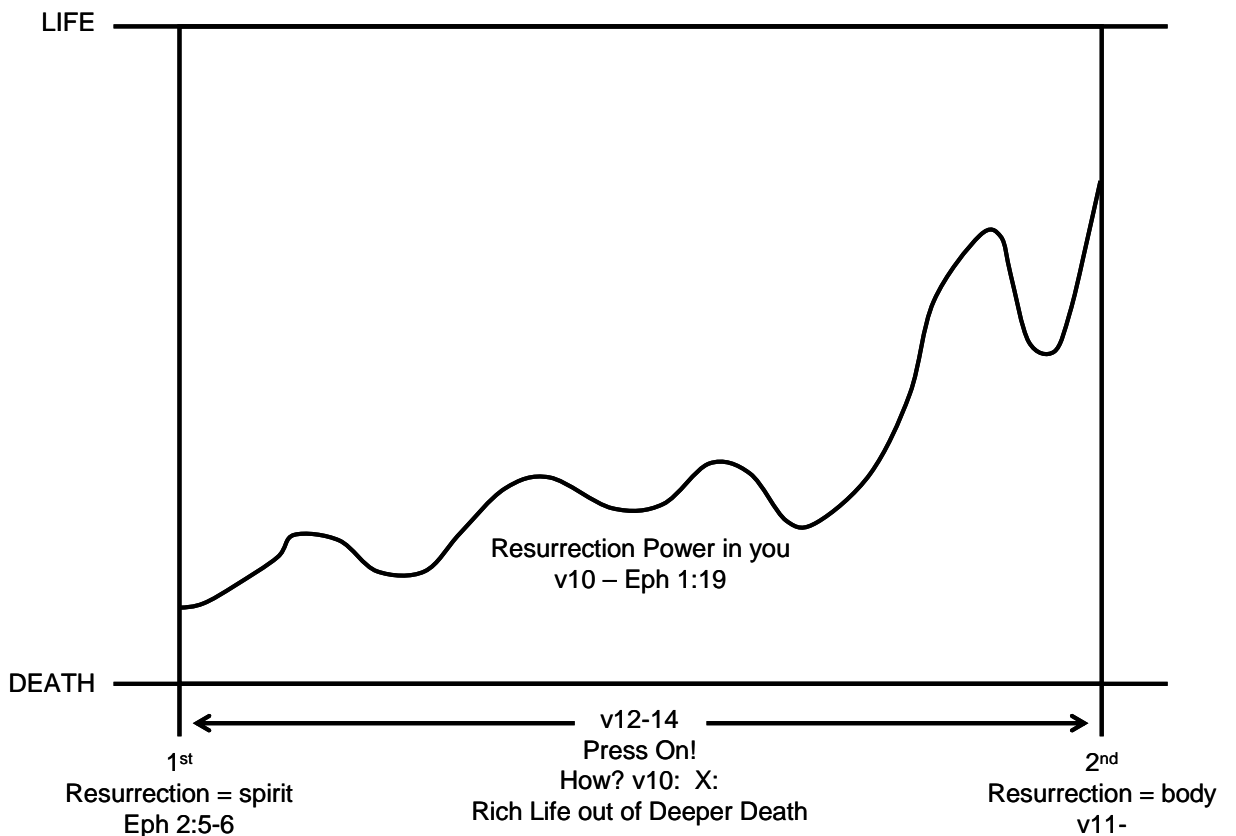
Or do you hope to be **startled** by new revelations of God's grace?

A timely word from Paul, a fellow struggler:

Paul's **P** _____: v4-9

Paul's **P** _____: v10-11: 4 goals:

- Know Jesus more intimately
- Know power that raised Him from dead (Cf Eph 1:19)
- Know His heart, willing to suffer to death from love and obedience
- He wants to attain to the Resurrection Life in glorified fullness!



Paul's **P** _____: **v12-15: His Passion:**

NEG: I have not yet gotten there, i.e. I am not yet perfect! (v12a)

POS: But I **press on** to grasp that for which Jesus grasped me
(i.e. this perfect resurrection life in its fullness) (v12b)

NEG: I certainly have NOT yet grasped it (v13a)

POS: I do not focus on the past, but rather on the future (v13b)

And I **press on** toward that Goal and Heavenly Prize that
God has promised me because of Christ! (v14)

This **P** _____ is for you in 2009 also! v15

Note: if you think of yourself as at all mature in Christ, this will be the way you think also. And if you don't, pray that God will make this perspective clear and compelling to you.

You are one year closer to the Resurrection in time.

Are you one year richer in the fullness of this new life?

That means you have learned more about sharing in His death.

What is your hope for 2009?