

# The Joy of Pressing Forward

## Philippians 3:12-16

10.29.2023

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Joy/FULL Series

### Reflect

Outline: Recap

### Realize

Points to Ponder

### Respond

Questions to draw out understanding.

## REFLECT

As we continue our study in the book of Philippians, today we uncover how pursuing Christlikeness was not only one of the most defining elements of spiritual growth for the Apostle Paul, but it was the main passion of his life. Though our world offers many ways to receive an external reward, followers of Jesus know that true fulfillment can only be found in Christ. May this message awaken an ability within you to lay aside all distractions and find the joy of pressing forward with one singular focus: to pursue Christ and to know Him.

## REALIZE

### 1. Christ should be our motivation.

- **Scripture Reference;** Philippians 3:12-16; 2 Timothy 4:7-8; 1 Corinthians 15:58
- **Questions for Reflection**
  - What motivates you? Share any area of your heart where personal motivations or statuses have taken precedence over being motivated for Christ.

### 2. Forget what's behind and press on.

- **Scripture Reference;** Philippians 3:12-16; Luke 9:62; 2 Corinthians 4:17-18
- **Questions for Reflection**
  - Are there things from your past that have hindered your ability to fully pursue your calling in Christ? If so, share with your group what they may be and in what ways they have hindered you.

### 3. A call for unity.

- **Scripture Reference;** Philippians 3:12-16; Philippians 2:2
- **Questions for Reflection**
  - Share a current life situation that has been a means of distraction. How is God inviting you to lay it aside? How would laying that aside enhance your relationship with Christ and your relationship with others?
  - How has your need for being "right" prevented you from being a vehicle of unity to those God has called you to love in Christ?
  - What would it practically mean for you to trust the Holy Spirit to reveal the Truth and to choose to be a vehicle of unity in the body of Christ?
  - Share practical steps that you can implement this week as you pursue the call of "walking in the same mindset."

### Optional Follow-up Questions:

- What makes you say that?
- How do you feel about that?
- How would you explain your answer to a non-Christian friend or neighbor?
- Why did God design it to work that way? Why not just do (whatever else) instead?
- What would you say to someone who disagrees with that?
- Why do we really have to do it like that? Why can't we just go (some other route) instead?