

Pressing On!!!

Phil. 4:12-13 Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal,^[e] but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ^[f] has laid hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold^[g] of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,

Giving Honor to God the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit. To All of God's Sons, Daughters, and Children. Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow. Let's turn to Philippians 4:12-13, as we lift up the Name of the Lord. The topic of today's didactic sermon is "Pressing On!!!"

Have you ever stopped in the midst of the day and reflected on what could have been? I mean, have you had some regrets? It's fair to say that we all, at one time or another, have dealt with regrets. If you haven't... keep on living. The focal point is to not let regrets rule your life, because they can really alter your mood, your state of mind, and your spiritual well-being. Thanks be to God for his grace and mercy. In life there are a few nuggets to aid us as we Press On!

- Stay focused! - It's difficult to move forward when you're looking backwards. Can I get a witness? Maybe you feel that your past mistakes have isolated you from the presence of the lord and you don't feel worthy of a blessing. Maybe the shame of the past has a profound effect on your present situation, and it has distorted your view of a bright future. Jesus said "Anyone who lets himself be distracted from the work I plan for him is not fit for the Kingdom of God." (Luke 9:62 TLB) It's wise to stay focused on the work that the Lord has called you to do. He will keep you in perfect peace if you trust Him and keep your mind fixed on Jesus. (Isaiah 26:3) Press On!
- Determination - Make up your mind that you are serious about God. Be determined to keep on pressing. We press by reading our bible. We press by witnessing to others about Christ. We press through the

transformational power of prayer, worship, devotion, and service. We press by fellowshipping with like believers in Christ. We press... When it rains, Press. When the Sun shines, Press. When the dark clouds flow, Press. When the storms of life are raging, Press. When you make a mistake or come up short, Press. Why? Because of God's compassion and steadfast love. The Prophet Micah says, "Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of his possession? He does not retain his anger forever because He delights in showing steadfast love. He will again have compassion upon us; He will tread our iniquities under foot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. (Micah 7:18-19 NRSV) Good God Almighty, tell somebody, I'm determined to Press On!

- The Goal is Christ - The Apostle Paul shared the importance of pressing toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. This requires spiritual maturity and a Godly way of thinking and relating to others. God will guide us, as we put our trust in the Lord. (Phil. 3:14-16) One can grow as they spend time with the Lord and incline their hearts to His voice. Jesus came that you would have life, and have it in abundance. It's time to press On.

In closing,

Have you received Him as your Lord, Savior, and the head of your life? Will you allow Jesus Christ to come into your heart today? Salvation is available to you today through God's divine plan. Jesus is the way. Jesus Christ is the chief cornerstone. Hallelujah. He has become the most important stone in the entire building. There is no way to be saved from the punishment of sin through anyone else. For there is no other name under heaven given to humanity by which we can be saved." (Acts 4:11-12) His love is so powerful that He does not treat us as our sins deserve. The psalmist says, "He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love for those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him; for He knows how we are formed, He remembers that we are dust. (Psalm 103:10-14 NIV) Romans 10:9 declares that if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. I'm pressing on the upward way. New heights

I'm gaining every day. Still praying as I'm onward bound, "Lord, plant my feet on higher ground." Lord lift me up, and let me stand, by faith on Heavens table land; A higher plane that I have found, Lord plant my feet on higher ground. I'm Pressing On! I'm Pressing On! I'm Pressing On!!! In Jesus Name. Amen.