

## PRESSING ON TO SUCCESS

Philippians 3:12-14 NIV – Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

### DESCRIPTION

Jesus is God's image of perfect success. Yet, His life did not match the world's view of triumph. Instead, Jesus willingly laid down His life to fulfill God's purpose. When He tells His followers to take up our cross and follow Him, He means denying ourselves as He did, including letting go of our own opinions, desires, cultural norms, preferences, and concepts of success.

For example, when measured by certain standards, the Apostle Paul had much to boast about. However, Paul knew that the world's standards of measurement are worthless in the sight of God. Paul had one objective in life and it was to know Jesus and be like Him, no matter the cost to his life, ego, or agenda.

Pressing on to Success is about entering into a deeper commitment to following Jesus, surrendering ourselves to God, and moving towards His purposes for our lives, no matter the cost.

### STUDY/MEDITATION

Read Philippians 3:4-14 slowly and prayerfully. Read it two or three times, asking the Holy Spirit to speak.

How did the Apostle Paul's image of success change when He came to know Jesus?

What was Paul's aim in life with the Lord? What was his burning desire?

What did Paul have to lose, give up, or walk away from in order to follow Christ?

Why was Paul willing to give up these things?



### PURPOSE:

To detach from, let go of, cut off, release, and repent of anything hindering my walk with Jesus and attaining His likeness.

To silence the past and look onwards to the future in the new mercies of God.

To take steps necessary for the advancement of God's Kingdom purpose for my life.

### SPIRITUAL FRUIT:

Increased freedom to obey God today.

Advancement in God's purpose for your life.

Alignment with God's perspective and purpose.

Restored focus on Christ.

## PRAYER

Father, thank you for sending Jesus to be the perfect example of pressing on in your purposes. Help me by your Spirit to forget the past and take new steps of faith towards all you have for me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## TALK WITH GOD

In your life right now, in what ways/areas is Jesus asking you to "forget what is behind" and press on to follow Him?

How are your standards of success or failure affecting your obedience to God? How is your boldness for God affected by your self-image, fears, or insecurities?

Are your desires, opinions, preferences, behaviors, or cultural norms hindering your advancement in God's purposes? If so, which ones? What does God say about these things?

Are there material objects or relationships that God is asking you to let go of? How is He asking you to go about doing this?

## PRACTICE

1. Write down your past or present definition of success and its attributes. What does success look like to you? How do you measure success?
2. Write down what you believe God's idea of success is.
3. Compare your definition and God's view of success.
  - How does your view differ from God's?
4. Write a new definition of success for your life.
  - Ask Jesus to refresh your focus on His desires for your life.
  - Ask Him if there is anything from your past that you need to let go of or give/throw away. (It could be a past trophy, a sentimental object, or an old mindset, etc.)
5. Ask God what steps of faith He is calling you to take as you pursue Christ and His likeness. Do what He says.

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### ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES:

Colossians 2:13-15

Matthew 16:23-26

Luke 14:26

Romans 8:38-39

1 Corinthians 9:24

John 12:25

Luke 9:51