

# Eyes on the Prize

August 17th, 2025



## PHILIPPIANS SUMMER SERIES

This summer, we're journeying together through the book of Philippians—a letter full of joy, encouragement, and deep insight into living a Christ-centred life.

Each day, you'll read one chapter of Philippians (Day 1: Chapter 1, Day 2: Chapter 2, Day 3: Chapter 3, Day 4: Chapter 4). Then, on Day 5, you'll read the entire book in one sitting. Along the way, we'll also highlight specific verses or related Scripture passages to help you go further in your reflection.

Our hope is that by revisiting the whole letter regularly, you'll grow in your grasp of its message and see more clearly how each part fits into the whole. Whether you're reading alone or with others, we pray this devotional strengthens your faith and draws you to God.

### DAY 1: RUNNING THE RACE WITH PURPOSE

#### READING: PHILIPPIANS 1 AND PHILLIPIANS 3:12-14

Paul uses the metaphor of a race to describe our spiritual journey. Just as athletes strain forward with intense focus, we too are called to press on toward the goal of knowing Christ more deeply.

Today, reflect on your spiritual "race." Are there areas where you've become complacent or distracted? Remember, the prize isn't based on performance, but on participation and faithfulness.

Ask God to renew your sense of purpose and to help you strain forward, leaving behind anything that hinders your progress.

### DAY 2: FORGETTING WHAT LIES BEHIND

#### READING: PHILIPPIANS 2 AND ISAIAH 43:18-19

Paul speaks of "forgetting what lies behind" - not erasing memories, but choosing not to let the past dictate our future. God echoes this in Isaiah, urging us to perceive the new thing He is doing.

Today, examine what parts of your past you might be clinging to - whether failures, hurts, or even past successes. Are these holding you back?

Remember, with Jesus, your past is no longer your primary influence - He is. Pray for the courage to release your grip on the past and embrace the new work God wants to do in and through you. What new beginning is God inviting you into today?

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## **DAY 3: THE UPWARD CALL OF GOD**

### **READING: PHILIPPIANS 3 AND COLOSSIANS 3:1-4**

Paul speaks of pressing on toward the "upward call of God in Christ Jesus." This call invites us to set our minds on things above, not on earthly things.

In a world that constantly pulls our focus downward, how can we cultivate an eternal perspective? Reflect on areas of your life where you might be overly focused on temporary concerns.

Ask God to elevate your gaze and help you see your daily life through the lens of eternity. What would change in your priorities if you truly lived for the "upward call"?

## **DAY 4: STANDING FIRM TOGETHER**

### **READING: PHILIPPIANS 4 AND EPHESIANS 4:11-16**

The Christian life was never meant to be a solo journey. Paul emphasizes the importance of community, urging believers to stand firm together. Today's passage highlights how we grow and mature in faith through our connections with one another.

Consider your own spiritual community. Are you actively engaged in encouraging and being encouraged by others? If you've been isolating yourself, what step can you take to reconnect?

Pray for opportunities to both give and receive support within your faith community. Remember, joy multiplies when shared with others on the same journey.

## **DAY 5: GOD'S FAITHFULNESS IN OUR RACE**

### **READING: PHILIPPIANS 1-4 AND 2 TIMOTHY 4:7-8**

As Paul nears the end of his life, he reflects on having "fought the good fight" and "finished the race." His confidence isn't in his own performance, but in the faithfulness of God.

Today, meditate on God's faithfulness in your own life journey. Where have you seen Him provide, guide, or strengthen you, especially in difficult times?

Even when we stumble, God remains faithful. Take time to thank Him for His unwavering presence and the assurance that He will bring to completion the good work He has begun in you. As you face challenges today, how can you lean more fully into God's faithfulness?