

ONE THING SERIES

THIS ONE THING

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CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION

5TH
MAR
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Read PHIL 3:13-14

When Paul says this one thing I do, it actually included **3 things**:

- **Forgetting the Past**
- **Focusing on the Future**
- **Forging towards the Prize**

1. Forgetting the Past

It is not accidentally forgetting. It means deliberately wilfully forgetting all his past achievements and accolade as a basis for him to be counted worthy to be saved or to serve God. Paul had a spotless career as a Jewish Rabbi. His pedigree, reputation & keeping of the law were faultless (Read Philippians 3:4-8). But he says: ***"But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind...."***

Forgetting the Past is about **SUBMISSION** to the Lordship of Christ with **3 lessons!** Firstly the lesson of **dependence on God**. Paul went from a somebody to a nobody.

Secondly: lessons of **humility**. All of Paul's rabbinical degrees meant nothing. **Thirdly:** lessons of **faithfulness**. Firstly the incredible faithfulness of God! Secondly lessons of staying faithful to the call and not quit!

Read PHIL 4:13-14

CGQ: Have you sometimes ever felt some of the good things you have done makes you deserving of salvation? Maybe because of your money, your looks, your family background, your education, your intelligence, your giftings? Or your past records and achievements? The Bible says: count them as rubbish (v 8). Share what things you count as rubbish in comparison to Christ? What does total surrender to Him mean to you?

2. Forging towards the Future

*But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and **straining forward to what lies ahead...*** The word straining here in Greek refers to stretching forward with every fibre in your body, like throwing yourself across the line in a photo finish in a 100m race.

Paul was the 1st century AD equivalent of **a modern day religious terrorist**. A persecutor of Jewish Christians, even killing them. Only when the past no longer pulls us back can we forge towards the future. God's calling on his life is in **Acts 20:24** *"I do not count my life dear to myself but that I may finish my race and the ministry which I have received from the Lord Jesus, to **testify to the gospel of the grace of God...**"*

If we forged to the future today, we would be **sharing the gospel** wherever we go... **Forgetting the past is about SUBMISSION**. Forging to the Future is **AMBITION; the ambition to make Jesus great even in the midst of challenges**

CGQ: Consider hardships. Would you still have the heart to share the gospel with others when you are going through hard times yourself? Why or why not? Share an instance in your life when you stepped out to make Jesus great even in the midst of your personal pain. What did it do for your faith and your intimacy with Christ?

3. Focusing on the Prize is about DETERMINATION

I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Paul said I **"press on"**. The word in Greek carries this meaning: **"I pursue as a hunter."** Like the single mindedness of an Olympic athlete. One vital ingredient we need to win the prize is GRIT...the ability **to tough it out** when things get really rough and to come through stronger than before. What was Paul focusing on? The prize of the upward call. The same voice of Jesus he heard on Damascus road now calling him upward! "Well done! Well done good & faithful servant!" Do you live your life for the One Thing? **Focusing on** the prize the Upward call means **DETERMINATION**

CGQ: How committed are you to finish well? Finishing well doesn't depend on health or wealth, blessings or ease and comfort through your life to the end of your life. It depends on keeping the faith, staying strong in His love and walking close to Jesus right to the end and glorifying Him (2 Tim 4:6-8). Share how you are building resilience into your spiritual life and keeping the fire of His joy and love burning. How much of it is God and how much of it is you?

Prayer

Pray for one another for GRIT to finish our race with joy and to share His joy and love to all in boldly by sharing the gospel as part of our lifestyle and calling. Pray to recommit your lives to this ONE THING: Amen!