



Outward Group Discussion Guide

January 4, 2026 (Salem)

SUMMARY

This sermon challenges believers to examine whether they possess an authentic, personal faith in Christ or merely a borrowed faith from parents, church, friends, or influencers. Using Philippians 3:12 as the foundation, the pastor emphasizes that genuine faith requires actively "pressing on" - moving energetically and purposefully toward knowing Christ personally and powerfully. The message confronts the reality that many Christians experience no discernible spiritual growth year after year because their faith remains secondhand rather than intrinsic. True faith involves knowing Christ intimately, experiencing the power of His resurrection, and sharing in His sufferings by crucifying the flesh. The ultimate motivation for this pursuit is the foundational truth that Christ has already made believers His own through His blood - salvation is complete, and the pressing on is a response to what has already been accomplished, not an effort to earn it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean for you personally to have a faith of your own versus a borrowed faith from parents, church, or others?
2. When you reflect on the past year, can you identify specific ways you have pressed on in your faith and made it your own?
3. How does the metaphor of keeping a fire hot by continually adding logs apply to maintaining a vibrant relationship with Jesus in your daily life?
4. Looking at the works of the flesh in Galatians 5, which areas reveal where you might still be operating from a borrowed or lukewarm faith?
5. What does it mean to know Jesus personally and powerfully, not just to know about Him intellectually or historically?
6. How can joy that is rooted in Christ differ from happiness that is based on circumstances, and where do you see this distinction in your own life?
7. What might it look like practically to share in Christ's sufferings and crucify the flesh with its passions and desires?

8. How does understanding that Christ has already made you His own through His blood change your motivation for pursuing holiness?
9. In what ways have you been tempted to base your spiritual identity on experiences, influencers, or relationships rather than on Christ Himself?
10. What specific steps can you take this year to press on toward knowing Christ more deeply and making your faith authentically your own?