

DECEMBER 4

The Right Mental Attitude

Let us run the race with endurance.

One essential requirement for running a successful race is having a right mental attitude. This truth was exemplified by the words of Paul as he spoke about his relationship to Jesus Christ: *“That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead”* (Philippians 3:10–11 NASB).

Paul had a specific objective. He did not run aimlessly. (See 1 Corinthians 9:26.) He had an aim before him. He knew what the goal was, which determined his mental attitude. He continued, *“Not that I have already obtained it, or have already become perfect [complete], but I press on in order that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus”* (verse 12 NASB). Paul’s vision was that Christ had laid hold of him for a purpose; fulfilling that purpose meant that he would have to relate to this purpose. He had to be determined that the purpose of Christ would become his purpose.

Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.(verses 13–14 NASB)

The phrase *“I press on”* occurs twice, once in verse 12 and once in verse 14. That is the mental attitude we need to share with Paul: *“I press on. I have a goal. I have not yet arrived, but I know where I’m headed.”* The last time Paul used that phrase, he said, *“I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”* There is a reward for those who successfully complete the race. Always keep the goal in mind, for we do not want to lose our God-appointed reward.

**Thank You, Lord, for helping me to
“press on.” I proclaim that I am
maintaining the proper mental
attitude—keeping the goal in mind. I
shall run the race with endurance.
Amen.**