



# Philippians

*THE HOPE OF JOY*



# Philippians: The Hope of Joy



“The growth of trees and plants takes place so slowly that it is not easily seen. Daily we notice little change. But, in course of time, we see that a great change has taken place. So it is with grace. Sanctification is a progressive, lifelong work. It is an amazing work of God’s grace and it is a work to be prayed for.”

- John Owen  
*The Holy Spirit*



# Philippians 3:12-21



“We all want progress, but if you’re on the wrong road, progress means doing an about-turn and walking back to the right road; in that case, the man who turns back soonest is the most progressive.”

- C. S. Lewis  
*Mere Christianity*



How do we make progress  
in our Christian pilgrimage?

1. Humble assessment of the self [v. 12-13]



“Only when we grasp how treacherous our sin is can we recognize how beautiful the gift of God’s grace is.”

- Alisa Childers



How do we make progress  
in our Christian pilgrimage?

1. Humble assessment of the self [v. 12-13]
2. Increasingly Christ-focused [v. 13b-16]



# How do we make progress in our Christian pilgrimage?

1. Humble assessment of the self [v. 12-13]
2. Increasingly Christ-focused [v. 13b-16]
3. Imitation of godliness [v. 17]



“Therefore I exhort you to be imitators of me.”

- *I Corinthians 4:16*

“Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.”

- *I Corinthians 11:1*



# How do we make progress in our Christian pilgrimage?

1. Humble assessment of the self [v. 12-13a]
2. Increasingly Christ-focused [v. 13b-16]
3. Imitation of godliness [v. 17-18]
4. Heavenly aspirations [v. 18-21]



# Characteristics of “enemies of the cross:”

1. Their end is destruction  
[every now and then, check the results]
2. Their god is their stomach  
[whether for fitness or indulgence]
3. Their glory is in their shame  
[whether religion or rebellion]
4. Their focus is on earthly things  
[unable to gain eternal perspective]



How do we make progress  
in our Christian pilgrimage?



“When this perfection is called goal, it is viewed as the object of human striving. When it is called prize, it is viewed as the gift of God’s sovereign grace... Though it is true that this believing and this striving are from start to finish completely dependent on God’s grace, nevertheless it is we who must embrace Christ and salvation in him. It is we who must strive to enter in. God does not do this believing and striving for us!”

- William Hendrickson



“There is perhaps no greater secret of progress in Christian living than in healthy, hearty spiritual appetite. Again and again Scripture addresses its promises to the hungry. God ‘satisfied him who is thirsty, and the hungry he fills with good things’ [Ps. 107:9]. If we are conscious of slow growth, is the reason that we have a jaded appetite? It is not enough to mourn over past sin; we must also hunger for future righteousness.”

- John Stott



“Therefore, prepare your minds for action,  
keep sober *in spirit*, fix your hope completely  
on the grace to be brought to you at the  
revelation of Jesus Christ.”

- *1 Peter* 1:13



This is how we make progress  
in our Christian pilgrimage:

1. Humble assessment of the self [v. 12-13a]
2. Increasingly Christ-focused [v. 13b-16]
3. Imitation of godliness [v. 17-18]
4. Heavenly aspirations [v. 18-21]