

PRESSING FORWARD

Philippians 3:12–16 (NASB) 12 Not that I have already obtained *it* or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. 13 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, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you; 16 however, let us keep living by that same standard to which we have attained.

THREE THINGS THAT KEPT PAUL PRESSING FORWARD

1. A FORWARD FOCUS

13 ...but one thing *I do*: forgetting what *lies* behind and reaching forward to what *lies* ahead,

A. FORGET WHAT LIES BEHIND YOU.

- THE MISTAKES OF THE PAST
- THE OFFENCE THAT HAPPENED
- YOUR SUCCESSES

2. A FORWARD PURSUIT

12) I **press on** so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

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

A. PRESSING IS A POSTURE OF THE HEART

B. EXPECT RESISTANCE

3. A FORWARD FAITH

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

A. FAITH IS AN ACTION

Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV) Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

James 2:17 (NIV) In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

B. FAITH OFTEN LOOKS CRAZY BEFORE IT LOOKS HEROIC.

Example: Abraham obeyed and went, not knowing where he was going... (**Hebrews 11:8**)

C. FAITH GROWS THROUGH OBEDIENCE.

God may not show the next step until you move.