

Running Towards What Matters Most | 5 Day Devotional

Day 1

Reading: Philippians 3:12

Devotional

Paul begins with humility. He does not pretend to have arrived spiritually. Even as an apostle, church planter, and faithful servant of Christ, Paul admits that he is still growing. He is still pressing on. He is still pursuing Christ. This is an important reminder: the Christian life is not passive. Salvation is not the finish line of faith; it is the starting line. When Jesus saves you, He makes you His own. But because you belong to Him, you are called to keep growing, keep following, keep learning, and keep becoming more like Him.

Paul's motivation was not guilt or religious performance. He pressed on because Christ had already taken hold of him. The grace of Jesus gave Paul a new identity and a new purpose. He was not chasing Christ to earn salvation; he was pursuing Christ because he had already been saved. There will be days when you feel weak, distracted, tired, or spiritually unfinished. Paul would understand that. But his words encourage you not to quit. Keep seeking Christ. Keep running the race. Keep trusting that the One who made you His own will help you remain faithful until the end.

Application

Reflection: How many times do you treat your faith as something you "finished" instead of someone you are still pursuing?

Action: Take a few quiet minutes today to ask: "Lord, where do You want me to keep growing?" Write down one area where you need to press on in faith.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for making me Your own. Help me not to become passive or complacent in my faith. Give me the desire to keep seeking You and becoming more like You. Amen.

Day 2

Reading: Philippians 3:13

Devotional

Paul had a past. Before he followed Jesus, he persecuted Christians and opposed the church. If anyone could have been paralyzed by regret, it was Paul. Yet he says he is "forgetting what lies behind." This does not mean Paul erased his memory. It means he refused to let his past control his future. His sins had been forgiven by Christ, and because of that, his past no longer had the authority to define him.

Many people struggle to move forward because guilt keeps pulling them backward. Others struggle because they live on yesterday's spiritual victories. Both can keep a believer from present faithfulness. Your failures are not greater than Christ's forgiveness, and your past faithfulness is not a substitute for obedience today. God calls you to remember His faithfulness, but not to live trapped in the past. If Christ has saved you, then your sins have been cast as far as the east is from the west. The race is still in front of you. The gospel still matters. Christ still has purpose for your life. Do not let yesterday's shame or yesterday's success keep you from today's obedience.

Application

Reflection: What kind of past failure, regret, or even past success do you find yourself returning to instead of moving forward with Christ?

Action: Name one thing from the past that you need to surrender to Jesus today. Then remind yourself: "Christ has forgiven me, and Christ is leading me forward."

Prayer: Father, thank You that my past does not have the final word over my life. Help me receive Your forgiveness and move forward in obedience. Keep my eyes on what You have placed before me today. Amen.

Day 3

Reading: Philippians 3:14-16

Devotional

Paul describes the Christian life like a race. He is pressing toward the goal, straining forward, and refusing to drift. The prize he is running toward is not comfort, success, recognition, or an easy life. The prize is Christ Himself. If Jesus is the prize, then faithfulness matters more than convenience. Obedience matters more than preference. The gospel matters more than personal comfort.

Paul also calls mature believers to think this way. Spiritual maturity is not merely knowing more Bible facts. It is learning to value what Christ values. It is having a heart that says, "Jesus is worth my time, my energy, my service, my worship, and my obedience."

This also applies to the church. A faithful church remembers the past with gratitude but keeps pressing forward with mission. The goal is not to preserve preferences or celebrate what used to be. The goal is to make Christ known now. You have breath today for a purpose. God has placed you where you are to live for Him, serve others, and point people to Jesus. The race is not finished yet.

Application

Reflection: How many times do you allow comfort, preference, or distraction to become more important than following Jesus faithfully?

Action: Choose one simple way to make Christ known this week—encourage someone, serve in a ministry, invite someone to church, or share what Jesus has done in your life.

Prayer: Lord, help me press toward what matters most. Keep me from drifting into comfort or distraction. Teach me to value Christ above everything else and to live faithfully today. Amen.

Day 4

Reading: Philippians 3:17-21

Devotional

Paul reminds believers that they live on earth, but they belong to heaven. Their true citizenship is not ultimately tied to a city, nation, address, or earthly identity. Their deepest belonging is with Christ. The world constantly tries to shape our desires. Paul warns about those whose minds are set on earthly things. Their appetites rule them. Their desires lead them. Their glory is in things that cannot last.

Christians are called to live differently. You are not called to be controlled by temporary cravings, cultural pressure, or earthly status. You are called to live as someone who is waiting for Jesus. To wait for Christ does not mean sitting still and doing nothing. It means living with eager expectation. It means remembering that this world is not all there is. One day Jesus will return. One day He will make all things new. One day even your lowly body will be transformed to be like His glorious body.

That hope gives strength for today. When life is hard, heaven reminds you that suffering is not permanent. When temptation is strong, heaven reminds you that earthly pleasures are not ultimate. When service feels unnoticed, heaven reminds you that Christ sees and rewards faithfulness.

Application

Reflection: What kind of earthly things most often capture your attention and make you forget that heaven is your true home?

Action: Before making one decision today, pause and ask, "Does this reflect that I belong to Christ and that my citizenship is in heaven?"

Prayer: Jesus, thank You that my true home is with You. Help me live today with heaven in view. Keep my heart from being ruled by earthly things, and teach me to wait for You with faith and hope. Amen.

Day 5

Reading: Philippians 4:

Devotional

After calling believers to press on, remember their heavenly citizenship, and wait for Christ, Paul gives a clear command: stand firm in the Lord. Paul knew the church would face hard days. There would be pressure from the outside, conflict on the inside, temptation to compromise, and seasons of weariness. His encouragement was simple but strong: do not drift, do not quit, and do not abandon the gospel.

Standing firm does not mean life will be easy. It means your foundation remains steady because your foundation is Christ. Feelings change.

Circumstances change. Culture changes. Churches go through different seasons. But Jesus does not change, and the gospel remains the power of God for salvation. Faithfulness is not only for the past. It is needed today. There are still people who need the hope of Jesus. There are still families that need healing. There are still children and teenagers who need truth. There are still neighbors who need someone to love them enough to share the gospel.

If God has given you breath, He has given you purpose. Stand firm. Stay faithful. Keep serving. Keep loving. Keep pointing people to Christ until the race is finished.

Application

Reflection: How many times do you feel tempted to drift, grow weary, or leave the work of faithfulness to someone else?

Action: Encourage one person today who is serving Christ faithfully. A simple message, call, or word of thanks can help someone else stand firm.

Prayer: Lord, help me stand firm in You. Strengthen me when I am tired, steady me when I am distracted, and use my life to point others to Jesus. Keep me faithful until Christ appears. Amen.