

# Press On

## Praying with the Philippians - Week 5 -

### Devotional

#### *Day 1*

Reading: Philippians 3:12-14

#### Devotional:

In the midst of a harsh Roman imprisonment, the Apostle Paul shows us a profound perspective on perseverance. He acknowledges that he hasn't achieved perfection, but he is relentlessly pursuing it. Paul emphasizes pressing on, not looking back at past failures or achievements. His aim is clear: to grasp what Jesus Christ has in store for him. This perspective is not about having it all together—it's about the journey, the process of continually striving toward spiritual maturity and deeper knowledge of Christ, even in the face of suffering. His attitude serves as a reminder of resilience and dedication in our walk with Christ.

#### Application:

**Reflect** on areas in your life where you feel inadequate or incomplete.

Acknowledge these feelings to God and ask for His strength to "press on."

**Write down your goals for personal and spiritual growth this week** and revisit them daily as a prayer: "I press on toward the goal..."

## ***Day 2***

Reading: Philippians 3:13-14

### **Devotional:**

Paul speaks about the importance of focusing forward, emphasizing that we cannot progress if our eyes are fixed on our past. He calls us to forget what is behind and reach for what lies ahead, striving toward the goal of the heavenly prize in Christ Jesus. This forward-thinking mindset is essential for spiritual growth, encouraging us to look past our regrets and failures and focus on the hope and promises that lie ahead.

### **Application:**

**Identify** specific past events or feelings that have held you back. **Spend time in prayer**, asking God to help you release these burdens. **Consider journaling about your past** and how those experiences have shaped you, then write down how you can redirect your focus to what God is doing in your life now and in the future.

## ***Day 3***

Reading: Philippians 3:17-19

### **Devotional:**

Paul warns about the influence of those who live as enemies of the cross of Christ. These individuals prioritize earthly desires over spiritual growth, setting their minds on temporary things. The challenge is to be vigilant about who we follow and ensure that our role models in faith are those who live in accordance with God's standards. Paul encourages believers to join in following his example and imitate those who walk according to this pattern.

### **Application:**

**Take inventory of the influences in your life.** Who or what is shaping your beliefs and behaviors? Are there areas where you have allowed worldly priorities to overshadow your spiritual journey? Seek out mentors or community members who exemplify a Christ-centered life and spend time with them, learning from their faith journey.

## ***Day 4***

Reading: Philippians 3:20-21

### **Devotional:**

Our citizenship is in heaven, a profound truth that reshapes our identity and purpose. Paul reminds us that we eagerly await a Savior who will transform our lowly bodies to be like His glorious body. While on earth, we honor God with our imperfect bodies, recognizing that we are temple vessels meant to glorify Him. This heavenly citizenship brings comfort and inspires us to live a life that reflects our eternal destination.

### **Application:**

**Reflect** on the concept of heavenly citizenship. What does it mean for your daily life and decisions? Make a list of ways you can honor God with your body, such as through health, service, and spiritual disciplines. **Commit** to one actionable step this week to honor God with your physical or spiritual habits.

## ***Day 5***

Reading: Philippians 3:13-14, 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

### **Devotional:**

Sanctification is an ongoing process, beginning at salvation but continuing throughout our lives. Paul uses the metaphor of a race to describe the Christian life—requiring discipline, focus, and perseverance. We are to run in such a way as to get the prize, which means continually seeking to be more like Christ and leaving behind a legacy of faith that inspires others to do the same.

### **Application:**

**Consider** the legacy you are leaving behind. How are your actions and lifestyle influencing those around you? Spend time today intentionally impacting someone through encouragement or an act of service. As you go through your day, contemplate how your decisions today contribute to your eternal and earthly legacy. Write down your reflections and pray over them.