

Summary

Pastor Chris Rumfelt preached from Philippians 3:13-14 about the apostle Paul's declaration to forget what is behind and press forward toward the prize of God's high calling. The message emphasized three key areas of moving forward: warfare, worship, and wealth. Pastor Chris stressed that Christians must let go of past guilt, failures, and even past successes to embrace what God has for them in the present and future. Using illustrations from George Washington's crossing of the Delaware and David's victory over Goliath, he emphasized that believers are in constant spiritual warfare but must handle their giants or be handled by them. The sermon concluded with a call to move forward with open hands, ready to receive God's new blessings while maintaining proper biblical foundations in all three areas of advancement.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You with grateful hearts, ready to learn from Your Word today. We ask that You open our minds and hearts to receive what You want to teach us through this discussion. Help us to let go of anything that might hinder us from moving forward in our faith journey. Give us the courage to face our giants and the wisdom to apply Your truth to our lives. Holy Spirit, guide our conversation and help us to encourage one another as we grow together. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one thing from your past that you're grateful you can leave behind as you move forward into this new year?

Key Verses

- Philippians 3:13-14
- Proverbs 24:16
- Exodus 14:15
- Romans 12:1
- John 10:10
- Philippians 4:13

Questions

- Pastor Chris said 'every setback is a setup for a comeback in the life of a believer.' How have you seen this principle work in your own life or the life of someone you know?

- The message emphasized that 'bondage always tries to reclaim what it lost.' What are some ways that old habits, sins, or mindsets try to pull us back from our forward progress with God?
- Paul refused to let guilt control him. How can Christians practically 'forget those things which are behind' while still learning from past experiences?
- Pastor Chris mentioned that some people revert to familiarity because they're uncomfortable with where God has placed them. Why do you think change can be so difficult, even when it's God-directed change?
- In discussing worship, the pastor said 'worship that stays stuck becomes ritual.' What's the difference between meaningful worship and mere ritual? How can we keep our worship fresh and authentic?
- The message taught that 'God will fund everything that He plans.' How does this principle apply to both personal finances and church ministry? What does it mean to be a 'funnel' rather than a 'barrel'?
- Pastor Chris emphasized that denominational labels are less important than truth and genuine spiritual experience. How can the church maintain biblical truth while being welcoming to people from different backgrounds?
- The sermon concluded with the image of 'open hands' versus 'closed hands.' What are some things we might need to release (closed hands) in order to receive what God has for us (open hands)?

Life Application

This week, identify one specific area where you need to 'go forward' - whether in spiritual warfare, worship, or stewardship. Take one concrete step to move forward in that area, whether it's letting go of a past hurt, trying a new form of worship, or increasing your giving. Practice reaching forward with open hands, ready to receive what God has for you while releasing what needs to be left behind.

Key Takeaways

- Christians must forget what is behind and press forward toward God's calling, refusing to let past guilt or even past successes keep them stationary
- Believers are in constant spiritual warfare and must 'handle their giants or their giants will handle them' through the power of Christ
- True worship should be mobile and surrendered, moving forward rather than staying stuck in comfortable routines
- God desires to bless obedient people financially, but wealth should serve His purposes rather than become the goal itself
- Moving forward requires open hands - releasing control, fear, and past hurts to receive God's new blessings and opportunities

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for this time of fellowship and learning from Your Word. We pray that You would give each person here the strength and courage to move forward in the areas where You are calling them. Help us to release the things we need to let go of and to reach forward with faith toward Your purposes for our lives. May we be people who handle our giants in Your name, worship You with authentic hearts, and steward our resources according to Your will. Give us open hands and open hearts as we follow You forward into all You have planned for us. In Your precious name we pray, Amen.