



Forward, Part 1

Pastor Mark Thomas | 12-31-2023

Key Scriptures:

1 Timothy 4:15 (TPT)

“Make all of this your constant meditation and make it real with your life so everyone can see that **you are moving forward.**”

God Desires Us To Move Forward

It is the will of God for us to move forward and experience great progress in our lives. Sports teams practice the basics through every level of skill to help them progress in their talents. In the same way, we build on the basics of faith in the Word of God so that we may move forward into all the Lord has planned for us. 2024 could be a year full of distractions, however if we will stay in the Word of God and act on the truth we will advance to new places of God’s goodness.

How To Move Forward

- 1. Get in and stay in the Word.**
 - a. Faith comes by hearing God’s Word (Romans 10:17).
 - b. Reading, speaking, and declaring scriptures will keep us in faith.
 - c. “The Living Word wants His living Word to live in you.” –Pastor Mark
- 2. Do not let fear hold you back.**
 - a. We are called to progress in faith and not draw back in fear (Hebrews 10:38).
 - b. Fear will keep us from moving forward:
 - i. Fear of change (employment, promotions, responsibilities)
 - ii. Fear of relationships (romantic and friend levels)
 - iii. Fear of the infilling of the Holy Spirit
 - c. God said not to fear because He is with us (Isaiah 41:10).
- 3. Expand in faith.**
 - a. Faith is the victory that overcomes the world (1 John 5:4).
 - b. The faith God has given us is always reaching for specific targets and goals.
 - c. Meditating on and doing the Word grows our faith, bringing success (Joshua 1:8).
 - d. Profit, progress, and moving forward results from meditating on God’s Word.
- 4. Let go of the past.**
 - a. We must not allow discouragement to keep us from acting in faith.
 - b. All that God has in store for us is ahead of us.
 - c. Paul says to forget the things of the past (Philippians 3:13).
 - d. Jesus prayed for Peter and He prays for us as well (Luke 22:31-32, Romans 8:34).
- 5. Let the future be your focus.**
 - a. The path of the righteous grows brighter and brighter (Proverbs 4:18).
 - b. We are to press forward and take hold of God’s goals for us (Philippians 3:12-14).
 - c. God says to forget the past because He is doing a new thing (Isaiah 43:18-19).

Supportive Scriptures

- **Romans 10:17** (Faith comes by hearing the Word of God.)
- **Hebrews 10:38** (Live by faith and do not draw back.)
- **Joshua 1:8** (Meditate on the Word, and do it, and you will prosper.)
- **1 Timothy 4:15** (Give yourself to God's work so that everyone can see your progress.)
- **Luke 22:31-32** (Satan desired to sift Peter but Jesus prayed for him.)
- **James 2:26** (Faith without works is dead.)
- **Ephesians 2:10** (God prepared good works for us to do.)
- **Proverbs 4:8** (The path of the righteous grows brighter and brighter.)
- **Exodus 14:15** (God told Moses to go forward through the Red Sea.)
- **1 John 5:4** (Faith is the victory that overcomes the world.)
- **Romans 8:34** (Jesus always lives to intercede for us.)
- **Philippians 3:12-14** (Forget past events and press toward the things ahead.)
- **Isaiah 43:18-19** (Forget the former things, God is doing a new thing.)