

7DAY FAST

DAY THREE

SHANE TENNEY

Hello, Victory FAM! I pray everyone is encountering the Lord in a fresh way in this new season. It is great to be here with you wherever you are reading, watching or listening from. I pray that Holy Spirit fills your space and brings revelation and wisdom in the Word of the Lord. This quarter's fast emphasis is on "New Beginnings." Here at Victory we are just getting into our new sanctuary, and there is still so much excitement and joy in all God has done, but I believe there is even more excitement and anticipation of what God is going to do. He is so good and worthy to be praised!

As I began to pray about what to bring for this devotion, the Lord put on my heart the phrase that Paul stated in Philippians 3:12-13 (NKJV) where he says, "I press on, that I may lay hold of that which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things that are ahead." He goes on to say that he presses on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus (verse 14).

In the previous verses, Paul was addressing a people whose culture was obsessed with status and titles. Paul began to list his resume and said that those things mean nothing. He said his achievements were like rubbish compared to knowing Christ in the fullness of experiential revelation and intimacy, but that he was pressing forward, forgetting the things of the past. Something I noticed is Paul wasn't emphasizing perfection or achievements; he was emphasizing pursuit. The Apostle Paul was a burning one for the Lord Jesus with holy pursuit.

After reading this, I realized what the Lord was showing me. He was telling me how to step into my new beginning appropriately. The Greek word for “press on” here in verse 12 and 14 is dioxo (Strong’s G1377), which means: to follow or press hard after, to pursue with earnestness and diligence in order to obtain, to go after with the desire of obtaining. If I could give a “Shane Tenney” interpretation, it means pursue with intention and pursue with passion.

America is in a new beginning. The Holy Ghost is orchestrating one of the greatest altar calls of my generation. We are just in the beginning of seeing thousands of people receive the Lord Jesus as their Messiah, and our response should be to dioxo. We witnessed men in the highest seats of authority in this country, with some of the greatest influence politically across the world, stand up at our Christian brother’s celebration of life who was martyred and preach the Gospel.

Repentance from sins was preached, and the Lord’s return was heralded in front of millions of people. America is stepping into her new beginning, and it is from the Lord. So, because it is from the Lord, the way we experience it the way the Lord intends us to is to surrender to His vision of the new beginning and press forward.

The Father is the One who ordains the seasons; He is the One who makes all things new. Having the knowledge of this creates hope, and when He fulfills His Word it creates trust. He is worthy of our trust. He never lies; He is always faithful. I am learning an important aspect of why God creates a new beginning, and that is to discover the greatness of His goodness. It honestly just keeps getting better and better walking with the Lord. Even in times of pressing and times of hardship God is still good. I don’t think it was by accident that Paul used the word press on while chained up in prison. Even if you are in your lowest of times right now, I want to encourage you to not give up and press on. Your new beginning is just ahead!

In Philippians 3:12 (NKJV), Paul by the Holy Spirit also said that he may, “lay hold of that which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.” That term “lay hold” means to seize something, to grab onto it with a firm grip and not let it slip through your fingers. Paul is saying “I am laying hold of the purposes of the Lord and the purpose of the Lord is laying hold of me.” You have to apprehend, seize with a tight grip, and don’t let the joy of this new beginning slip through your fingers. Don’t let the true purpose of this new beginning, which is to create a fresh pursuit and discovery of the goodness of God, slip through your grip. When you lay hold of the purposes of God, the purposes of God lay hold of you. It grips you so nothing will let you fall through the fingers of God, and nothing can snatch you out of His hand.

Lastly, in this new beginning we must forget those things that are behind. We can’t carry an old season into a new one, especially if it was a hard season. We can carry the lessons learned, the knowledge gained, and the war cry from our spirit through worship in a new season, but we must leave behind the hurt, the trauma, the disappointments, the confusion or the “this wasn’t what I thought was supposed to happen.” You name it; we know the list goes on. We can’t even carry in our “achievements.”

When God calls us into a new beginning, He is calling us to a new thing. When we live in the past, what we are actually doing is walking in the opposite direction of forward. So, if the Lord is leading us into a new thing for the future, and we turn around and walk the opposite direction, are we really following the Lord? No, we are not. We are just out wandering back to the “what if’s” and the “never did’s.” We must press on and lay hold of this new beginning.

This concludes today’s devotion. I want to pray with you before I go.

Father, I thank You for this new beginning. You are the author of our season, and we surrender to You, because You are the One who establishes our steps. Father, thank You for Your faithfulness and goodness that follow us. Thank You for leading us out of hard seasons and into fruitful ones. Thank You for leading us from fruitful seasons to harvest seasons. Thank you, Lord, that You are stirring in us a fresh pursuit for You. Thank You that when we pursuit You, You come and meet us. Thank you, Lord, for the wisdom to press forward and to apprehend Your purposes in our lives and Your purposes to apprehend us in Your will. Father, I ask that You would give my brothers and sisters a fresh encounter with Your holiness and greatness, that You would bring us further in the depths of Your majesty and splendor. That our ears would be synchronized with the rhythm of Your heart beat, and our hearts would burn like fire at Your presence. We love You, Lord Jesus, and we are not ashamed to be called by Your Name. I pray this in Jesus name! Amen