

Series: Pursue

Running After the Heart of God with Undivided Devotion

Title: Continuing the Pursuit

Philippians 3:12–14 (NLT)

I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

INTRODUCTION

- The Christian life is not just about **starting the pursuit**.
- It is about **continuing the pursuit**.
- Many people start with passion but struggle to continue when:
 - The answer takes longer than expected
 - Life becomes difficult
 - They experience disappointment
 - They become spiritually tired
- Paul says, **“I press on.”**
- Paul understood:
 - I haven't arrived.
 - I don't know everything.
 - I haven't reached perfection.
 - **But I'm still pursuing.**

Key Thought:

The pursuit of God is not a one-time decision; it is a daily commitment.

1. KEEP PURSUING WHEN YOU ARE TIRED

Isaiah 40:31 NLT

But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength.
They will soar high on wings like eagles.
They will run and not grow weary.
They will walk and not faint.

- Following God can be exhausting.
- There are seasons when we become spiritually, emotionally, and physically tired.
- Being tired does not mean you're finished.
- Sometimes you don't need to quit—you need to **rest and regain strength**.
- God promises strength to those who wait on Him.

Resting is not quitting.

- You may have to slow down.
- You may have to catch your breath.
- But don't abandon the pursuit.

When you're tired—keep pursuing.

2. DON'T LET DELAY STOP YOUR PURSUIT

Galatians 6:9 NLT

“So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up.”

- Sometimes we stop pursuing because we don't see results.
- We prayed, but the answer hasn't come.
- We believed, but the situation hasn't changed.
- We obeyed, but we haven't seen the harvest.

A delay is not a denial.

- God may be working in ways you cannot see.
- Your responsibility is to remain faithful.
- The harvest comes “**at the right time.**”

Don't quit in the waiting season.

- Keep praying.
- Keep believing.
- Keep serving.
- Keep obeying.
- **Keep pursuing.**

3. DON'T LET YOUR PAST STOP YOUR FUTURE

Philippians 3:13 NLT

No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing:
Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead,

- Paul says he is:
 - Forgetting the past
 - Looking forward to what lies ahead
 - Pressing toward the goal
- Your past is part of your story, but it doesn't have to control your future.
- You cannot move forward while constantly looking backward.

Some things you have to leave behind:

- Past failures
- Past disappointments
- Past offenses
- Past mistakes
- Past seasons
- Past versions of yourself

Proverbs 24:16 NLT

The godly may trip seven times, but they will get up again.
But one disaster is enough to overthrow the wicked.

- The godly may fall seven times, but they get up again.

Falling doesn't disqualify you—staying down does.

- You fell?
 - **Get back up.**
- You failed?
 - **Get back up.**
- You made a mistake?
 - **Get back up.**

Don't let where you've been keep you from where God is taking you.

4. KEEP YOUR EYES ON JESUS

Hebrews 12:1–2 NLT

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.

- The bible tells us to run with endurance and keep our eyes on Jesus.
- What you focus on will affect how you run.

If you focus on:

- Your problems → you'll become discouraged.
- Your circumstances → you'll become distracted.
- People → you'll become disappointed.
- Yourself → you'll become overwhelmed.

But when you focus on Jesus:

- You remember who He is.
- You remember what He has done.
- You remember His faithfulness.
- You remember that He is still with you.

The pursuit becomes difficult when we take our eyes off the One we're pursuing.

- Don't focus on how long the journey is.
- Focus on who is walking with you.

Keep your eyes on Jesus.

5. DON'T JUST START—FINISH

2 Timothy 4:7 NLT

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful.”

- Paul didn't just talk about starting.
- Paul talked about **finishing**.
- The goal isn't simply to begin well.
- The goal is to remain faithful until the end.

There will be seasons:

- When you feel strong.
- When you feel weak.
- When you understand.
- When you don't understand.
- When you see the answer.
- When you're still waiting.

But in every season:

KEEP PURSUING.

- Don't stop praying.
- Don't stop worshiping.
- Don't stop seeking.
- Don't stop believing.
- Don't stop following Jesus.

God isn't just looking at how you started; He wants you to remain faithful to the finish.

CONCLUSION

Philippians 3:14 NLT

I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

- Paul didn't say:
 - “I used to pursue.”
 - “I pursued for a season.”
 - “I pursued until it got difficult.”
- Paul said: **I PRESS ON**

That's the mindset we need.

When I'm tired—I'll keep pursuing.

When I'm waiting—I'll keep pursuing.

When I've failed—I'll get back up and keep pursuing.

When I'm distracted—I'll fix my eyes on Jesus.

When the journey gets hard—I'll keep going.

DECLARATION

I will continue the pursuit.

I may get tired, but I won't quit.

I may fall, but I'll get back up.

I may have to wait, but I'll keep believing.

I may not understand, but I'll keep trusting.

I may not see the entire path, but I'll take the next step.

I will keep my eyes on Jesus.

I will keep pressing forward.

I will continue the pursuit.