

Staying in Process

Philippians 3:12-16

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Take-Home Truth: It's progress, not perfection. Progress only happens when you stay in process.

First Key: ALLOW YOURSELF TO BE A WORK IN PROGRESS.

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own . . . Philippians 3:12-13a (English Standard Version)

For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Philippians 3:8b-11 (ESV)

Second Key: FORGET THE PAST AND PRESS ON TO THE FUTURE.

But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. Philippians 3:13b-15 (ESV)

“Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old. ¹⁹Behold, I will do a new thing . . .” Isaiah 43:18-19a (New King James Version)

But Jesus told him, “Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God.” Luke 9:62 (New Living Translation)

For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, ¹²encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory. 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12 (New International Version)

Typical Stages in the Christian Life

- New Beginnings and First Steps of Growth
(1 Corinthians 3:1-3; Ephesians 6:10-18)
- Following Jesus
(Philippians 2:12-13; Ephesians 4:1-3)
- Deepening Passion for God
(Philippians 3:7-11; John 15)
- Further Stages: Developing a greater and greater depth of love and passion for God and a desire to live only for Him.
(John 17; Psalm 27:4-6; Galatians 2:20)

Final Key: MAINTAIN YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE.

Only let us hold true to what we have attained. Philippians 3:16 (ESV)