

# Press on Towards the Goal

## Press On Towards the Goal

### Key idea:

We must press on to grow in our salvation because Jesus has made us His own; we strive for this because it is our duty and our greatest pleasure.

### Key text:

Philippians 3:12-16

12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. Following Paul's Example

15 All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. 16 Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

### Key points:

1. Salvation is not just a single point in time but a journey encompassing justification, sanctification, and glorification.
2. Our goal should be to become more like Christ and make discernible progress in our faith.
3. Our motivation for growth comes from the fact that Christ Jesus has made us His own.
4. We must balance the truth that Christ has made us His own with our duty to press on in our salvation.
5. Growing in our salvation is for our own joy and the benefit of those around us.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. How has your understanding of salvation changed after hearing this sermon? Do you tend to view it as a one-time event or an ongoing process?
2. Devin mentioned the poor success rate of New Year's resolutions. How does this relate to our spiritual growth? What makes spiritual goals different from typical resolutions?
3. Discuss the paradox presented in the sermon: Christ has made us His own, yet we are called to press on to make salvation our own. How do you understand this tension?
4. How does the knowledge that "Christ Jesus has made you His own" motivate you in your spiritual journey?
5. The sermon used the analogy of a barbell to illustrate balancing truths. How can we maintain a healthy balance between God's work in us and our responsibility to grow?
6. Reflect on Paul's statement about "forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead." How can we apply this principle to our spiritual lives?
7. Devin emphasized that our past successes or failures should not impact our motivation to press on in salvation. Why is this important, and how can we practice this?

### **Practical Applications:**

1. **Self-Reflection:** Take some time this week to examine your spiritual progress over the past year. Identify areas of growth and areas that need more attention.
2. **Prayer Focus:** Commit to daily prayer, asking God to reveal areas where He wants you to grow and for the strength to press on in your faith.
3. **Scripture Study:** Choose a passage from Philippians (perhaps chapter 3) to study in-depth this week, focusing on Paul's teachings about spiritual growth.
4. **Relationship Audit:** Evaluate your key relationships (family, friends, church community) and identify one way you can better fulfill your God-given duties in each.
5. **Goal Setting:** Prayerfully set one specific, measurable goal for spiritual growth this year. Share it with the group for accountability.
6. **Grace Reminder:** Create a daily reminder (e.g., phone alert, sticky note) to meditate on the truth that Christ has made you His own, balancing this with your commitment to grow.