



Reach For God's Future

PHILIPPIANS 3:12-14

12 Not that I have already reached the goal or am already perfect, but I make every effort to take hold of it because I also have been taken hold of by Christ Jesus.

13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead,

14 I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God's heavenly call in Christ Jesus.

BIG IDEA: God's future is not something we fear — it's something we pursue. The best days are still ahead as we press toward His calling.

FOUR STEPS OF FORWARD FAITH

① Don't settle where you are—God has more ahead.

» **Comfort is the enemy of calling.**

(12a) *"Not that I have already reached the goal... but I make every effort."*

Paul rejects spiritual arrival. He's expressing a holy dissatisfaction, not with Christ, but with his own current level of obedience, transformation & intimacy with Jesus. He refuses to settle for spiritual autopilot.

We haven't arrived. God isn't done.

God has more ahead for LifePath.

No coasting. No settling. Only moving forward.

② Release what's behind you.

» **You can't carry yesterday into tomorrow.**

(13a) *"... forgetting what is behind..."*

Paul is fully aware of his past — he lists it earlier in this very chapter (vv. 5–6) —but he refuses to let past success make him proud or past failure make him paralyzed.

Charles Spurgeon: "The man who looks back will soon go back. Paul pressed forward because he would not let yesterday hinder today."

You can't reach *forward* while holding *backward*.

F.B. Meyer: "Memory is God's gift, but it can become a weight. Paul loosened every weight that held him from the upward call."

The Greek word for "forgetting" implies:

- a conscious letting go
- a deliberate refusal to cling
- a choice to not be governed by yesterday

Paul's words gently invite us to ask: What am I still holding that God is asking me to release?

Leave what was. Step into what will be.

③ Reach with focus and intentionality.

» **Direction determines destination.**

(13b) *"One thing I do... reaching forward to what is ahead."*

Paul is living with singular, determined pursuit.

Focus fuels forward movement.

The order matters—

- Forget what is behind
- Reach forward
- Press on toward the goal.

Eugene Peterson: "The Christian life is not a meander, it is a focused obedience."

Reaching forward must look like this:

- 1) Focused reach requires *shared direction*.
- 2) Focused reach requires *participation*.
- 3) Focused reach requires *unity*.

④ Press toward the future God has prepared.

» **God calls—we press forward.**

(14) *“I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God...”*

This is the climax of Paul’s thought.

The key verb is *“I press on.”* This is not casual effort. Not spiritual jogging. It is intense, relentless pursuit.

Forward faith doesn’t stop halfway.

God is already in our tomorrow.

- Pressing means perseverance.
- Pressing means “yes” before comfort.
- Pressing means living as called people.

Run toward the call.

NEXT STEPS

#1 — Personally: Step forward in obedience.

Ask God: What is my next step of faith?

#2 — Collectively: Commit to the mission.

We don't move forward as *spectators*—we move forward as *participants*.

#3 — Spiritually: Pray for what's ahead.

- For the people who will walk into the new building for the first time.
- For unity and vision among our church family.
- For God's presence to mark this new season powerfully.

The future is shaped on our knees—before we ever step through the doors.