



SERIES: A SEASON OF HOPE

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Monday, December 28, 2020

Scripture: Philippians 3:12-14

TITLE: Press On

I read about a woman who went to swim and play in the ocean. She decided she would take a break and rest on her raft. She dozed off for 15 minutes and woke up to discover she had drifted far from the beach. She began to swing her arms in the water, but it seemed to be useless. The good news is she was rescued, but she learned a valuable lesson: drifting never gets us to where we want to go. She was stuck in the ocean, but we too often get stuck in our spiritual walk when we drift.

How do we avoid drifting into spiritual inertia? Listen to the Apostle Paul's advice in Philippians 3:12-14 (NLT):

¹² 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. ¹³ 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, ¹⁴ I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

How many of us are "busy?" It's like a badge of honor to declare we are busy and then list the many commitments and activities we are involved in. But not Paul - Paul recognizes a better way. Paul says, "I focus on this one thing."

Paul wasn't interested in creating spiritual inertia by busying his life. He certainly wasn't interested in becoming spiritually stuck by stopping altogether. He wasn't going to drift. No - He had one goal and one commitment: He would forget the past and focus on the future. How? He would press on. This was an athletic picture, like a runner who ran every day trying to beat his time. Like a basketball player who shoots 100 free throws every day. They know their one thing, and they never coast.

Now, here's what I love about this passage. Paul knows that we are a work in progress. His progress is made possible by Christ's sacrifice. Christ's perfect sacrifice prepares us for our own transformation. That's why he says, "I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me."

Today, if you feel like that woman stuck in the ocean, it's okay. You're not too far out. You may have drifted in your walk with Christ. You may have become so busy, your priorities are all out of whack. Don't give up - Instead, press on.

My challenge for you today, is to ask yourself, “Why have I become stuck? Am I doing too much because my priorities are wrong? Am I merely coasting through life, but drifting away from God?”

Ask yourself these questions, but don’t stop there. Ask God to help you refocus. Ask God to help get you moving again. Then, make sure you’re hearing from God. God is a great Father and a great coach to get you moving and keep you grooving.

I use our goTandem app to hear from God regularly. So, if you haven’t downloaded our app goTandem, do so today.

Today, get moving. Refocus on God, and allow Him to bring you back to shore.