



**SERIES: Philippians (May / June) “Finding Joy in the Journey”**

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**Thursday, June 10, 2021**

**Scripture: Philippians 3:15-16**

**TITLE: Keep Climbing**

This past year Conor McGregor lost to Dustin Poirier in front of a stunned UFC crowd. Conor had not fought for a while, but his mouth was as quick and powerful as ever. Unfortunately, his body was not as prepared. Conor was overwhelmed by a focused and prepared Dustin.

When we coast and compromise in our daily training and pursuit of spiritual fitness, we get into trouble. We can lose those battles we encounter. That’s why Paul has some encouragement and insight to keep us training in Philippians 3:

“Let all who are spiritually mature agree on these things. If you disagree on some point, I believe God will make it plain to you. <sup>16</sup> But we must hold on to the progress we have already made.” (Phil. 3:15-16, NLT).

Over the past 14 verses, Paul has been pressing on the incredible value of knowing Christ. When we know Christ intimately, we know the truth, and can experience peace and joy in all circumstances. And as people who know Christ, we are to focus on becoming like Christ each and every day.

That’s where we pick it up in verse 15. Paul says, those of us who are mature - in other words, saved and pursuing that daily transformation - let’s be sold out in this. We are to daily be with Christ and pursue a life pleasing to him. Let’s commit and settle it.

And if you begin to drift away from Christ and the truth of His Word, God will correct you through His Word, His Spirit, and even through discipline. Sanctification – that being molded into the image of Christ – is essential for the believer. We may resist it from time to time, but God will get us back on track.

I like how the NASB translates verse 16. It says, “let’s keep living by that same *standard to which we have attained.*” In other words, let us keep going. Let us keep running that race. Let’s keep staying in our lane and pursue that one thing: being focused on becoming more and more like Christ.

Each day we can pursue spiritual fitness: that’s becoming more and more like Christ by engaging in God’s Word, praying, mentorship or coaching, and leaning into our trials. We should be like the person who died climbing the Swiss Alps. There is a marker with this inscription, “He died climbing.” That’s my prayer for us all. We die climbing the path toward the prize of becoming like Christ.

So here's my challenge for you today: Keep climbing. Keep training. I mentioned 4 things that help us become more like Christ: engaging in God's Word, prayer, being coached, or leaning into your trials.

Which one is easiest for you and which one is hardest? Share in the comments below.

Whatever one needs your attention, what will you do to train in it? What's one thing you can do to engage in it? Is it prayer? Will you commit to pray a certain amount of times? Is it finding a coach? Is it reading God's Word more? Is it looking for ways to grow through your trials? Pick one area and commit to doing something about it.

When we commit to the climb, we will win the day.