



fresh
start

Making The Most Of “Now”

Philippians 3:7-14

1. WE MUST “EXAMINE” OURSELVES.

- 2 Co 13:5 Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves.
...
- Psa 26:2 Prove me, O LORD, and try me; test my heart and my mind.
- Hag 1:7 "Thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways.

Gal 6:4 But let each one test his own work.....

1Co 9:24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it.

2. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OUR “HELPER” IN THE PROCESS.


Joh 14:17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

Joh 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

3. SCRIPTURE ENCOURAGES A FOCUS ON THE “NEW,” THE FUTURE, NOT THE PAST.

Notice the future orientation of Paul:

- Phil 3:13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

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- Joh 3:3 ... "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."
 - 2Co 5:17 ... if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
 - Rom 6:4 ..., in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.
 - Isaiah 43:19, 48:6, 65:17; Ezek 11:19; Gal 6:15, Eph 4:24, Col 3:10, Rev 21:5.

4. I MUST LET GO OF THE OLD TO TAKE HOLD OF THE NEW. GROWTH CAN THEN OCCUR.

- Phil 3:7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. ...
- Hebrews 6:1 Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, ...,



- Gal 4:9 But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, ...?
- 1 Cor 2:2 I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, 3 for you are still of the flesh. ...
- Phil 3:12, “Not that I have already obtained it But I press on so that I may lay hold...



5. PAUL GIVES US HIS PROCESS OF GROWTH.

- A. Personal reflection** under the guidance of the HS.
VV 4 – 6. His “barriers” to knowing Christ.
- B. Submit to the HS** – “I count as loss”: Vv 7-8
- C. I look to the future by:**
 - C. Knowing Christ.** Vv 12-14

6. JESUS IS WORTH THE “STRAIN.”



V 13. “... But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on for the goal(Phil. 3:13)

NEXT STEPS

- 1. In the next 24 hours, spend personal time reflecting on the “normal” of your life.**
 - Choose the time right now.**
- 2. Pray this prayer before you begin:**
 - “Holy Spirit, show me those areas in my life that you want to make “new.” Give me the courage and conviction to do what you tell me.”**

NEXT STEPS (CONT)

- 3. Tell one person what you surrender to God and take one step to begin a change in your “autopilot.”**
 - Consider that person as one to hold you accountable.**