

PRESS ON TOWARD THE GOAL.
Sunday, December 18th, 2011
Pastor Audie D. Clairmont

Philippians 3:13-14-Amplified

...but one thing I do [*it is my one aspiration*]: **forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead.**

3:14 I press on toward the goal to win the [*supreme and heavenly*] prize to which God in Christ Jesus is calling us upward.

One of the most important success skills that you can develop is the ability to stay focused.

- You not only need to get focused, but remain focused.
- You can overcome any obstacle, any adversity that might come your way, when you are a focused believer.
- You can't move forward and stay focused if you are living in the past!

...forgetting what lies behind...

Focus: *the center of one's attention or concentrate on, pay attention to, have as its starting point.*

Focus requires a target. *Without that target, you can't become focused.*

...straining forward to what lies ahead,...

Darby Translation: ...I pursue, **looking towards** the goal,...

Weymouth New Testament: ... with **my eyes fixed on** the goal

- When you read God's Word and you discover God's promises for your life ***then*** that target has been created.

Take for example:

Philippians 4:19 – Amplified

And my God will liberally supply (fill to the full) your every need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

- This is designed by the Holy Ghost to become a target for your financial stability.
- If your needs are not met, or if you're constantly living in lack, or if you're living from paycheck to paycheck, or if it seems that you always come up short, then you need to **focus on that verse.**
That verse becomes your target.
- For the Believer, ***focus is determining where to direct your faith*** and ***holding it there until that which you are believing for comes to pass.***
- If it's healing that you need, then direct your faith to the healing scriptures.
- If it's financial deliverance that you need, then direct your faith towards the promises of God where finances are concerned.
- If it's the salvation of a loved one, then focus your faith on the promises of God and declare that you have a right to believe that your entire household will be saved.
- Don't give up until ***the manifestation comes to pass.*** God will honor the faith of every believer who will determine that they're not going to give up.

Here are four ways to stay focused:

1. To Stay Focused: Stay in the Word

2Peter 1:3-4-WeymouthN.T.

...seeing that ***His divine power has given us all things that are needful for life and godliness, through our knowledge of Him*** who has appealed to us by His own glorious perfections.

4 It is ***by means of these*** that He has granted us ***His precious and wondrous promises***, in order that ***through them*** you may, one and all, ***become sharers in the very nature of God***, having completely escaped the corruption which exists in the world through earthly cravings.

- God has given us everything ***we need in life***, and everything we need ***to walk with HIS integrity and character through HIS MIGHTY POWER!***
- ***This is accomplished through HIS WORD, HIS PROMISES. The more you stay in the WORD and declare HIS PROMISES, the more you will look and act like HIM!***
- ***God's Word builds you up.*** When do you need to be built up the most? ***In a trial.***
- ***The Word to a believer is like spinach to Popeye, the cartoon character.***

When you stay in the Word, your faith remains strong.

2. To Stay Focused: Stay In Faith

Romans 10:17-NKJV

... So then ***faith comes by hearing***, and hearing ***by the word of God.***

1John 5:4-Amplified

... For whatever is born of God ***is victorious over the world***; and ***this is the victory that conquers*** the world, ***even our faith.***

- ***Faith/Trust*** is what enables you to ***overcome*** the world.
- Check yourself and see what's been coming out of your mouth lately. When you ***stay in faith, you don't talk the problem, you talk the solution.***

3. To Stay Focused: Stay In Fellowship.

1John 1:3-ERV

We are telling you about what we have seen and heard because ***we want you to have fellowship with us.*** The fellowship ***we share together is with God the Father and his Son Jesus Christ.***

2Corinthians 13:14V

... The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and ***the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.***

- Fellowship with the Holy Ghost puts you in a position of advantage. It keeps you in contact with Headquarters.

4. To Stay Focused: Stay in Joy

Psalm 51:12-NIRV

Give me back the joy that comes from being saved by you. Give me a spirit that obeys you. That will keep me going.

- Don't get so burdened down *with believing* that you **lose your joy**.

Determine to keep your joy no matter what happens.

Psalm 16:11-CJB

You have shown me the path to life, and **you make me glad by being near to me. Sitting at your right side, I will always be joyful.**

- In the presence of the Lord, there is fullness of joy.

*When you're focused, then it makes no difference to you what might be happening in the natural. Just keep expecting your breakthrough. Keep expecting God's favor. Keep expecting a miracle. **Remember, whatever you focus on will eventually come to pass in your life.***

What is the **"goal" or "mark"** you're pressing toward? Whatever it is, each day that you **press toward it**, you're getting a little closer to it becoming reality.

Today's Confession: I will press on toward the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. I will not lose focus. I am expecting God's favor in my life.