

KEEPING OUR FOCUS.
Sunday, October 17, 2021
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Philippians 3:13-14-NKJV

13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but **one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind** and **reaching forward to those things which are ahead.**

14 **I press toward the goal** for the prize of the **upward call of God** in Christ Jesus.

Passion Bible

13 I don't depend on my own strength to accomplish this; ***however I do have one compelling focus: I forget all of the past as I fasten my heart to the future instead.***

14 I run straight for the divine invitation of **reaching the heavenly goal** and gaining the victory-prize through the anointing of Jesus.

Focus: an act of concentrating interest or activity on something...

Colossians 3:2-NKJV

...**Set your mind on things above**, not on things on the earth.

Passion Bible - 2 Yes, feast on all the treasures of the heavenly realm and **fill your thoughts with heavenly realities, and not with the distractions of the natural realm.**

One of the key elements to spiritual growth is the ability to **obtain** and then **maintain focus** in the Christian life.

1. KEEPING OUR FOCUS WILL PUT OUR PRIORITIES IN ORDER.

Paul said, ...***"This one thing I do"*** ...

Philippians 3:8-NLT

8 Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with **the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.**

Luke 10:41-42-Passion Bible

41 The Lord answered her, "Martha, my beloved Martha. ***Why are you upset and troubled, pulled away by all these distractions? Are they really that important?***

42 Mary has discovered **the one thing most important** by choosing the most beautiful place of sitting at my feet. **She is undistracted**, and I won't take this privilege from her."

2. KEEPING OUR FOCUS WILL GIVE US A FORWARD MIND-SET.

...forgetting those things which are behind...

Hebrews 12:2-AMP

2 **Looking away [from all that will distract] to Jesus**, Who is the Leader and the **Source of our faith...**

Philippians 2:4-5-Passion Bible

4 Abandon every display of selfishness. ***Possess a greater concern for what matters to your friends instead of your own interests.***

5 And consider the example that Jesus, the Anointed One, ***has set before us. Let his mindset become your motivation.***

"...reaching forward to those things which are ahead..."

3. KEEPING OUR FOCUS WILL SET US ON THE SECOND MILE.

Matthew 5:41-NLT

41 If a soldier demands that you carry his gear for a mile, **carry it two miles.**

4. KEEPING OUR FOCUS ENABLES US TO KNOW WHERE WE ARE GOING.

...I press toward the goal...

...for the prize of the upward call of God...

Passion Bible - ***...gaining the victory-prize through the anointing of Jesus...***

2 Timothy 3:10-Passion Bible

10 But you, Timothy, have **closely followed my example and the truth** that I've imparted to you. You have modeled your life after the love and endurance I've demonstrated in my ministry by not giving up. The faith I have, you now have. **What I have hungered for in life has now become your longing as well.**