

## Our Highest Calling

### Philippians 3:12-14 NKJV

**12** Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. **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.

### Philippians 3:12-14 MSG

I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back. **Philippians 3:12-14 MSG**

**Looking Back/Review** —> He Chose Us —> We Delight In Him —> We PRESS IN

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## Don't Look Back

- Have we allowed the reality of the Gospel to affect every situation and circumstance of the past?
  - Victories
  - Failures
  - Relationships
  - Hurts

## High Calling

- **Ephesians 4:1-4**

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to **walk worthy of the calling** with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with long-suffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. *There is* one body and one Spirit, **just as you were called in one hope of your calling**; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.

- **Romans 11:29**

For the **gifts and the calling** of God *are* irrevocable.

- **1 Corinthians 1:27-31**

For you see your **calling**, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called*. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence. But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption— that, as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the LORD.”

- One writer paraphrased Paul this way, "God often uses the cheesy to confound the sophisticated. He regularly honors those who are confused about his leading as if they have nailed it." (Mark Galli)

- **The HIGH CALLING is NOT about:**

- POWER
- POSITION
- PEOPLE

- The **HIGH CALLING** is about HIM, it brings **hope** and isn't given based on our great qualification or performance. It is given by GRACE.

- **John 17:3**

And this is eternal life, **that they may know You**, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

- **Hebrews 11:5-6**

By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, “and was not found, because God had taken him”; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But **without faith it is impossible to please Him**, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

- **Philippians 3:7-10**

But what things were gain to me, **those I counted loss** for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, **And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness**, which is of the law, but that which is through the

faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: **That I may know him**, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

## **Press On**

- **Press** - "To urge with force or weight; denoting the application of any power, physical or moral, to something that is to be moved or affected."
- **There will be obstacles**
  - Woman with Issue of Blood - **Luke 8:43-48** (She knew that is she could but touch him...)
- **Giving ourselves entirely**
  - **1 Timothy 4:14-16**

Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; **give yourself entirely to them**, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

    - What does progress look like?
      - It means God's hidden work in us is oozing out. It does NOT mean that we are becoming more and more like each other - that's peer pressure.
- **We WILL NOT arrive**
  - **Palm Sunday**
    - **Matthew 21:4** - Fulfilled prophecies from Zechariah 9:9 and Isaiah 62:11
      - Jesus could have thought FINALLY THEY GET IT.
      - Instead he pressed towards the cross
      - **Isaiah 50:7** (Another version says... **I will NOT give up.**)

"For the Lord GOD will help Me; Therefore I will not be disgraced; Therefore I have set My face like a flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed.
- **We need to be less introspective or we will miss all the Lord is doing**
  - **Matthew 9:35-38**

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, **"The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."**
  - Michael Card - "Behind every specific call, whether it is to teach or preach or write or encourage or comfort, there is a deeper call that gives shape to the first: **the call to give ourselves away - the call to die.**"

- Oswald Chambers - "God did not direct His call to Isaiah— Isaiah overheard God saying, ". . . who will go for Us?" **The call of God is not just for a select few but for everyone.** Whether I hear God's call or not depends on the condition of my ears, and exactly what I hear depends upon my spiritual attitude."
- Henry Blackaby - "We don't choose what we will do for God; He invites us to join Him where He wants to involve us."

## **WHERE ARE YOU GOING??**

- The Christian life is a personal journey
- Individuals make up the body... the pictures in the Bible are of singles that make up a whole.
- Peter was one of the disciple, but Jesus asked him PERSONALLY - Do "YOU love me?"
- Our unity comes from where we are all headed - NOT that we are all being forced to be there same.
- **Ephesians 4:14-16**  
that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, **may grow up in all things into Him** who is the head—Christ— from whom the whole body, **joined and knit together by what every joint supplies**, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.
- **Matthew 5:14** - **"...a CITY set on a hill cannot be hidden."** A city is made of many PEOPLE.

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## **Helpful Quotes**

- **We can be about the right endeavor and still miss the main point. We are called not be experts on God but to walk with him.** - Louie Giglio
- If I walk with the world, I can't walk with God. - D.L. Moody
- In all your course, walk with God and follow Christ as a little, poor, helpless child, taking hold of Christ's hand, keeping your eye on the mark of the wounds on his hands and side, whence came the blood that cleanses you from sin and hiding your nakedness under the skirt of the white shining robe of his righteousness. - Jonathan Edwards