

Learning from Our Past, but Living Life Forward

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- **Say this with me:** God says let's go forward together.
- Last weekend we learned that God designed every person to do life with Him.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT) All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. 17 God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

- **Title:** Learning from our past but living life forward
- We are to learn from our past, **but we are not to live in the past.**
- Jesus is our role model, here are 3 ways to measure our **Spiritual growth.**
- **1)** God wants us to think like Jesus (mind of Christ: we think like the Bible)
- **2)** God wants us to be like Jesus (character of Christ - fruit of the Spirit)
- **3)** God wants us to do the works of Jesus (minister like Jesus)

Philippians 3:10-11 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

- **First Goal-** Paul wanted to know Christ better in every way. He wanted to think, be and minister like Jesus did.
- **Second Goal** - Paul wanted to be and do ALL that God had planned for him.

*Philippians 3:12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on (**going FORWARD**) to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.*

- A sign of spiritual maturity is our desire to keep growing and **moving forward with GOD.**
- Spiritual maturity – the goal is continued progress **not perfection.**

Proverbs 1:5 let the wise listen and add to their learning...

- The more we grow spiritually the **MORE** we discover we need to grow more.

Philippians 1:23-25 (NLT) I'm torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me. 24 But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live. 25 Knowing this, I am convinced that I will remain alive so I can continue to help all of you grow and experience the joy of your faith.

Philippians 3:13-14 (NLT) No, dear brothers, and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this

one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

- **Step 1** - Forgetting (letting go of) my past.
- "To forget" = no longer influenced by or affected by our memories
- **First:** Forget our past accomplishments and successes
- Remembering our past accomplishments can be a good thing, **IF we allow those memories to empower us to live by faith.**

1 Samuel 17:34-37 But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, **35** I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. **36** Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. **37 The Lord** who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine." Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you."

- David used his past to **go forward** by stepping out in faith and killing Goliath.
- So, the best thing to do is to let our past accomplishments empower us to follow God forward TODAY and grow in our faith!
- Stop talking about your relationship with God in the **PAST** tense

Ephesians 3:20 (NLT) Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us (**NOW**), to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.

- **Second:** Forget our past sins, failures, guilt, shame, and regrets
- All of us have failed but we are not failures.
- Satan loves to condemn people because of their past
- A Christ Follower (CF) doesn't live by feelings but by **the truth of God's word.**

Romans 8:1-2 (NLT) "So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. **2** For the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you through Christ Jesus from the power of sin that leads to death."

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

- We can only follow God **FORWARD** by letting go of our past **NOW.**
- Read with me - **God says:** I must never allow MY past to control MY future.

Romans 10:9 (NLT) If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

- Text **YES** to 321.574.6970 if you have chosen to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior

All Bible references are from the New International Version (NIV) unless otherwise noted. NLT = New Living Translation.