

PRESS ON TOWARD THE GOAL

A Study in the book of Philippians

FOCUSED RUNNING
Philippians 3:12-17



The Goals-

1. An increase in love for God that flows over to loving others.
2. Grow in your knowledge and depth of insight of God and the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. Apply what you receive from God in making the best decisions possible.
4. Live in dependency and obedience so that you do not stumble or cause others to stumble.
5. Strive to live this way until Christ Returns.



“Praying for the Road Ahead”

“Running for Heaven, but needed on Earth”

“The Runners Mindset”

“Running Together”

“You were Created to Run Like Christ”

“Focused Running”




I. An awareness of the need to pursue a better condition. 3:12

¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect...

Thinking I only need to stay in first grade.

Thinking I have graduated. (Perfectionist)

There must be a desire for the “holiness begun” to be deepened and there must be a desire for “holiness deepened” to progress to “holiness completed”.

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II. Give Maximum Effort 3:12

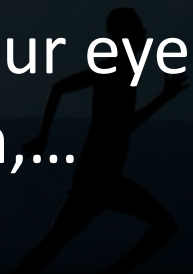
...I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.



III. Focused Concentration 3:13

¹³ Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,

Hebrews 12:1-2a (NIV) ¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. ² Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith,...



IV. Spiritual Motivation 3:14

¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

The goal is to be like Christ, perfection in Christ. The prize is to be like Christ, perfected in Christ.

The goal is to be like Christ, holiness deepened. The prize is to be like Christ, holiness completed.

“As one writer has observed, the more one knows of Christ the more one wishes to know.”

College Press NIV Commentary

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V. Perfected Objective 3:15

¹⁵All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you.

“There is a difference between one that is perfect, and one that is perfected. The one is fitted for the race, ver. 15; the other, ready to receive the prize”

John Wesley



VI. Consistent Running is Necessary 3:16

¹⁶ Only let us live up to what we have already attained.



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