



Pressing On

Philippians 3: 13 – 16

Solid Rock Church

Pastor Elliott Anderson

Running Through Fires

Paul ran through fires.
Fires bring losses.

? isn't whether we'll run
through fires

? is how we'll respond to
the fires – will we run
through them – and how?





**“WHEN HE HAS
TRIED ME, I SHALL
COME FORTH AS
REFINED GOLD.”**

JOB 23:10



WE WENT THROUGH FIRE AND
WATER, BUT YOU BROUGHT US
TO A PLACE OF ABUNDANCE.

PSALM 66:12

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Being Lost in the Fire

Fires burn things up
Fires leave damage / loss
Restoration is needed
Church/community needed



Found in the Fires: Colossians 1: 10 - 13

Our Position as Found Children of God

God has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the Kingdom of His beloved Son...

Our Perspective and Practice as Found Children of God

So, we walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God...

Lost and Found: Pressing On

Proverbs 29: 18, When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild. But whoever obeys the law is joyful.

Proverbs 19: 21, Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails.

Philippians 3 Structure

Paul's Spiritual Biography

3: 1 – 11 His past gains and losses

3: 12 – 16 His present “pressing on”

3: 17 – 21 His future “citizens of heaven”

Paul's 4 Main Illustrations

Architecture: “Temple of God” “Firm Foundation”

Agriculture: “What a man sows, he reaps”

Military: “Armor of God” “Soldier of Christ”

Athletics: “Runners run, but one receives the prize”

Philippians

3: 12 - 13

Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it on my own. **But one thing I do:** forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal...



THE
ONE
THING

A close-up photograph of a hand with the index finger pointing straight up. The hand is positioned on the left side of the frame, with the thumb and other fingers curled. The background is a bright blue sky filled with soft, white clouds. The lighting is natural, highlighting the texture of the skin and the details of the hand.

Jesus “One Thing”

“One thing you lack.”

Disciple Demarcation

Mark 10: 21

“You are troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary.”

Disciple Priority

Luke 10: 42

Philippians 3: 12 - 13

Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it on my own. But one thing I do: **forgetting what lies behind** and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal...



Biblically Forgetting What Lies Behind

Forgetting does not mean failing to remember, it means failing to be negatively influenced or affected by the pain/hurt/issue any longer. Rather, be motivated by it.

Isaiah 43; 18 – 19, Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

Can't Live in the Past

Jacob deceived his father
Moses murdered a man
Ruth's perpetual grieving
David committed adultery
Peter denied Christ
Paul executed Christians



Neurological and Physiological Truth

Our brain can't determine past, present, and future

Our thinking is our brain language

Our feelings is our body language

The brain and body work together / can't separate

When we think and feel about our past

We relive the pain / hurt and cement it in psyche

**Therefore, if anyone is in
Christ, he is a new
creation. The old has
passed away; behold, the
new has come.**

—2 Corinthians 5:17

Philippians 3: 12 - 13

Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it on my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and **straining forward to what lies ahead**, I press on toward the goal...



Straining Forward

**Reaching forth or
Straining forward**

Literal translation:
stretching as in a race.

Can't reach forth or strain
forward if looking behind!





1st Corinthians 9: 26 - 27

**So, I do not run aimlessly;
I do not box as one beating
the air. But I discipline my
body and keep it under
control...**

Hebrews 12: 1 – 2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings closely, and let us **run with endurance** the race that is set before us, **looking to Jesus**, the founder and perfecter of our faith...





What Are We Looking At?

If we are looking at everyone else, our eyes are off Christ.

We strive forward best by recognizing the past, accepting it, and looking to Jesus.

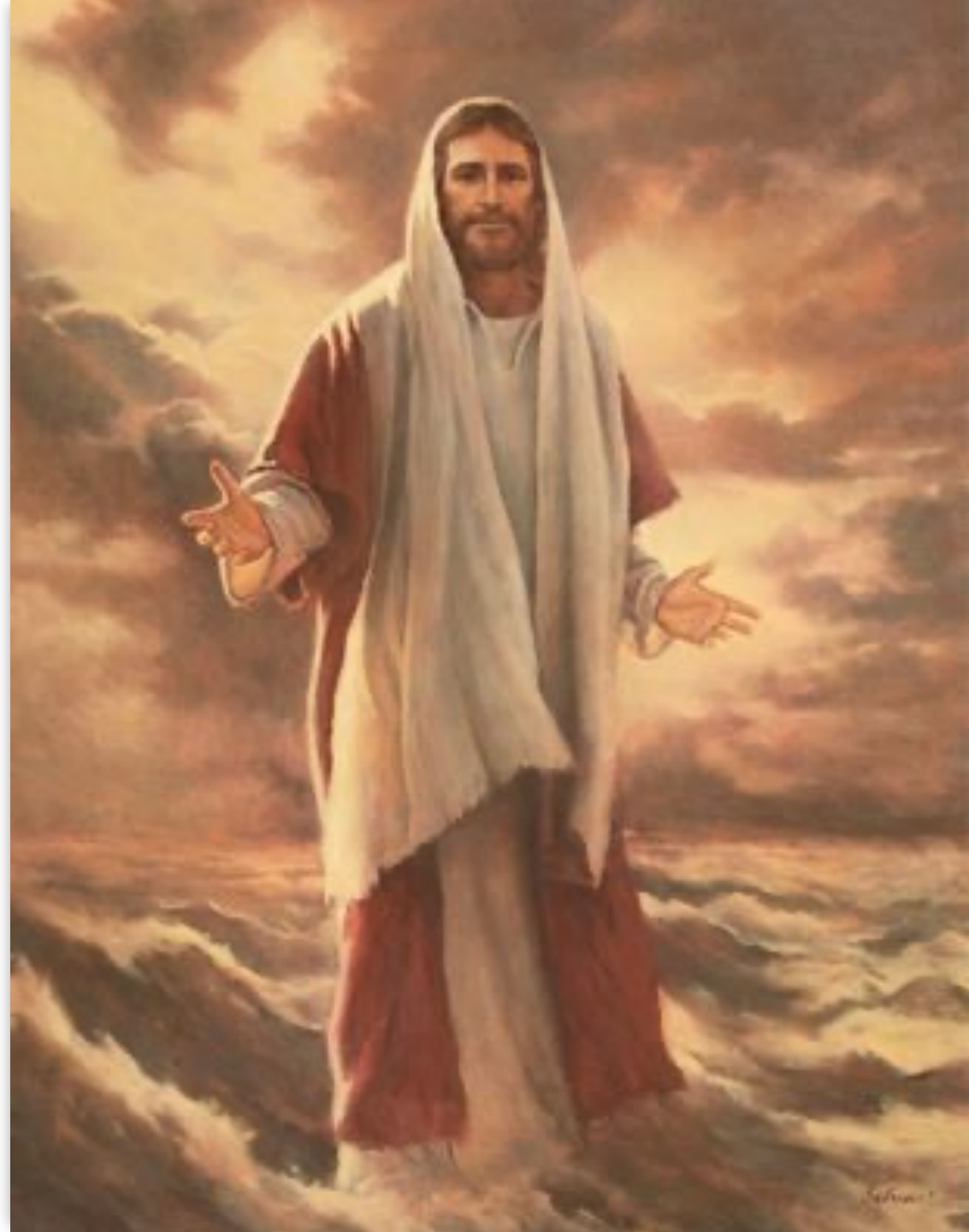
Looking to Jesus: Lens of Christ

Look to Jesus and see what He sees

Look at yourself as Jesus sees you

Look at others as Jesus sees them

Isaiah 45: 12, Look to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God and there is no others.



Looking to Jesus

Psalm 123: 1, To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

Psalm 63: 2, So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.



Philippians 3: 12 - 13

Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it on my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, **I press on toward the goal...**



Press on: working through
an intense endeavor

A marathon more than a sprint

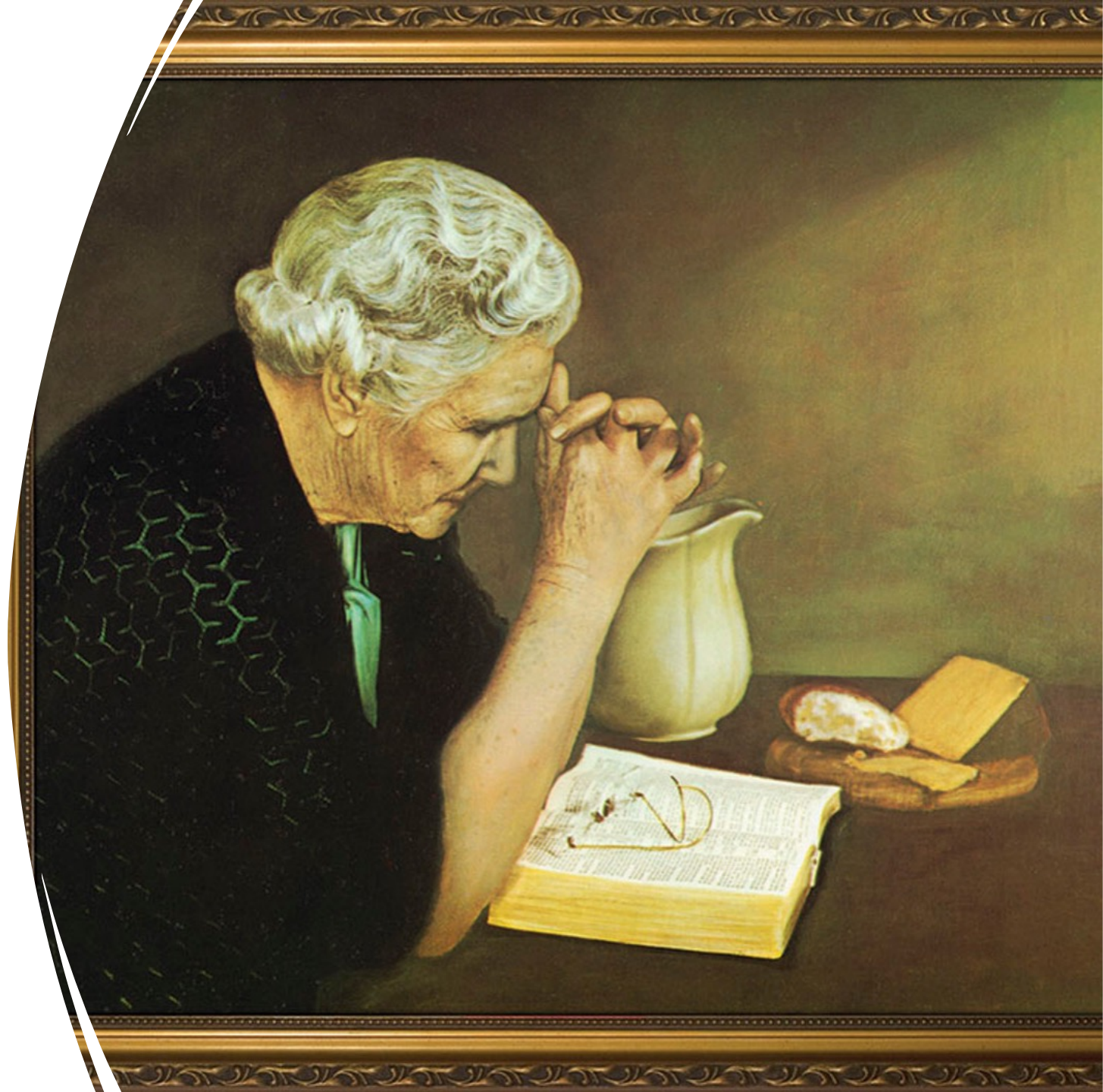
You can't run a marathon
without training, repetition,
and intensity in discipline,
commitment, and suffering



Philippians

3: 14 - 15

I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus, **Let those of us who are mature think this way**, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you.





Paul Pressing On

Paul zealously fought against - and then for the church

Paul pressed on by training others for ministry

Paul commands us to do the same

A low-angle shot of a woman with long dark hair, wearing a red sleeveless dress, holding a dark blue Bible high in her right hand. She is looking up at the sky with a joyful expression. The background is a bright blue sky filled with fluffy white clouds. The sun is visible in the upper right, creating a soft glow.

Philippians 3: 16

Only let us hold
true to what we
have attained.



What are you
holding onto
and where are
you running to
when you are in
the fires?

BUT I CONSIDER MY LIFE OF NO VALUE TO
ME, IF ONLY I MAY FINISH MY COURSE AND
COMPLETE THE MINISTRY I HAVE RECEIVED
FROM THE LORD JESUS—THE MINISTRY OF
TESTIFYING TO THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD'S
GRACE.

— ACTS 20:24



**“I have fought the good fight,
I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith.”**