

July 2, 2026

Finish With Purpose

June Series: Live What Was Built

Week Focus: Faithful to the Finish

Scripture – Philippians 3:13–14 - *"Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal..."*

Devotional Reflection

Every race has a starting line, but the goal is never simply to begin—it is to finish. The Christian life is much the same. Many people begin their walk with Christ full of excitement and expectation, but remaining faithful over time requires perseverance, focus, and purpose. In Philippians 3:13–14, the Apostle Paul gives us a picture of what it means to live with spiritual determination. He declares that he is forgetting what is behind and pressing on toward the goal that God has set before him.

One of the greatest obstacles to finishing well is allowing the past to control the present. Some people are held back by past failures. They believe their mistakes have disqualified them from God's purpose. Others become trapped by past successes, relying on yesterday's victories instead of pursuing today's calling. Paul understood that neither failures nor achievements should become our focus. God's call is always forward. Every new day is another opportunity to grow, serve, and become more like Christ.

Pressing on requires intentional effort. It means choosing faith when giving up feels easier. It means continuing to trust God when answers are delayed. It means remaining committed to prayer, worship, obedience, and service even when emotions fluctuate. Spiritual endurance is built through consistent faithfulness, not occasional bursts of enthusiasm. Those who finish well are those who continue moving forward one faithful step at a time.

Living with purpose also means remembering why we keep pressing forward. Our goal is not simply personal achievement or earthly success. Our goal is to know Christ more deeply, fulfill His calling on our lives, and bring Him glory in everything we do. When our purpose is rooted in Him, temporary setbacks lose their power to discourage us. We understand that every challenge is an opportunity for God to strengthen our faith and deepen our dependence on Him.

Today, refuse to allow yesterday to define tomorrow. Whether you are carrying regrets, disappointments, or even past accomplishments, place them in God's hands and keep moving forward. The race God has given you is still before you. Stay focused on Christ. Keep pursuing His purpose. Keep pressing toward the goal. A life that finishes with purpose is a life that remains faithful until the very end.

Focus for Today

I will keep pressing forward because God's purpose for my life is greater than my past.

Practice

- Ask God to help you release one thing from your past that has been holding you back.
 - Write down one spiritual goal you want to pursue with renewed commitment.
 - Read Philippians 3:13–14 slowly and reflect on what it means to "press on."
 - Thank God that His grace gives you a fresh opportunity to move forward every day.
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Prayer

Father, thank You for calling me to move forward in faith. Help me release the things that would keep me from finishing the race You have set before me. Strengthen my resolve to keep pressing toward Your purpose, even when the journey is difficult. Fill me with perseverance, courage, and hope as I continue to follow You. May my life bring glory to You from beginning to end. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Reflection Question

What is one thing from your past that God is asking you to leave behind so you can fully pursue the purpose He has placed before you?