

October 1, 2026

Don't Stop At The Mile Marker

September Series: We Are The Church

Week Focus: One Heart, One Mission

Scripture – Philippians 3:13–14 - *“But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”*

Devotional Reflection

Milestones are worth celebrating. They give us an opportunity to remember what God has done, recognize how far He has brought us, and thank Him for His faithfulness along the journey. But a milestone was never intended to become a stopping place. Paul understood this when he wrote that he was “straining toward what is ahead.” He could acknowledge what God had already done in his life without allowing yesterday to become the place where he permanently settled. **Gratitude for the past and faith for the future can exist together.**

This is important because yesterday can become comfortable—even when yesterday was once a miracle. We can become so attached to what God did before that we stop asking what obedience looks like now. We may keep rehearsing an old testimony while God is calling us into a new act of faithfulness. Remembering is healthy when it produces worship, but remembering becomes unhealthy when it keeps us from following God forward. **We honor what God did yesterday by faithfully following Him today.**

Moving forward does not mean forgetting God’s faithfulness or becoming dissatisfied with what He has already done. It means allowing His past faithfulness to strengthen our present trust. You may not know exactly what comes next. There may be unanswered questions, unfamiliar territory, or steps you do not yet understand. But your confidence does not have to come from knowing everything about tomorrow. **Your confidence can come from knowing the God who has already proven Himself faithful.** The One who sustained you before will remain faithful as you follow Him now.

So celebrate the mile marker—but do not turn it into a parking space. Thank God for how far He has brought you, then ask Him where faithfulness is calling you next. There are still prayers to pray, people to love, opportunities to serve, areas to grow, and steps of obedience to take. God’s faithfulness behind you is not an invitation to live in the past; it is a reason to trust Him with what lies ahead. **You can remember yesterday with gratitude while moving toward tomorrow with faith.**

FOCUS FOR TODAY

God's faithfulness behind you gives you courage to follow Him into what is ahead.

PRACTICE

- Thank God for one significant milestone He has allowed you to reach.
 - Ask yourself whether you are **celebrating the past or living in it**.
 - Identify one area where God may be calling you to take a new step of obedience.
 - Release your need to know every detail before you move forward.
 - Pray, **"Lord, help me faithfully follow You into what comes next."**
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PRAYER

Father, thank You for every mile marker along my journey. Thank You for the prayers You have answered, the lessons You have taught me, the places where You have sustained me, and the ways You have proven Yourself faithful. Help me celebrate what You have done without becoming so comfortable with yesterday that I resist what You are asking of me today.

Give me faith for what is ahead. When I cannot see every detail, remind me that I can still trust You. When the next step feels unfamiliar, help me remember the ways You have carried me before. Keep me from allowing fear, comfort, or nostalgia to become a parking space. I want to honor what You did yesterday by faithfully following You today. Lead me forward, and give me the courage to obey.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTION

Is there an area of your life where you have been celebrating what God did before while He is calling you to take a new step of faithfulness now?