



faster forward

launching into a new season of spiritual growth

2. Structure and stretch for growth

Philippians 3:8-16

⁸ I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. ¹⁰ 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 so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 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, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵ All 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. ¹⁶ Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

Decide for growth

▲ Stir up some desire

Philippians 3:10 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 so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

—more of Jesus—more from Jesus—more like Jesus—more for Jesus

▲ Speak out a declaration

Philippians 3:8 I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.

▲ Stretch out with determination

Philippians 3:12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

—a further step—a fresh sacrifice—a faith-filled stretch

▲ Start out in a definite direction

Philippians 3:13 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, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Design for growth

▲ The church challenge

Hebrews 10:25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

—be consistent—be connected—be committed—be constructive—be consuming

▲ The Bible booster

2 Timothy 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

—read regularly—study specific subjects—learn for living

▲ The prayer priority

Colossians 4:2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

—prioritize prayer—personalize prayer—press into prayer—pump up the praises

▲ The ministry mandate

1 Corinthians 15:58 Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

—find a fruitful field—serve selflessly—labor lovingly—partner profitably

Defend your growth

▲ Expect distractions and discouragement

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you.

▲ Exercise daily discipline

Philippians 3:15 All 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.

▲ Employ dogged determination

Philippians 3:16 Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

▲ Embrace each day and enjoy the drive

Psalms 118:24 This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.