

WORD

¹²Not 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. ¹³Brothers, 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, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. PHILIPPIANS 3:12-14

WHAT

Every true follower of Christ would most likely agree that all disciples would want to experience spiritual growth. Whether in character, habits, or the way we relate with others, all of us would want to grow and be more like Jesus as we look to His finished work on the cross and as we let the Holy Spirit change us. How, then, can this be done? Breaking down Philippians 3:12 can help us understand just how.

1 "Not that I have already obtained . . ."

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever!
Amen. 2 PETER 3:18

Paul understood that what God was doing in his life was not yet finished. He has not reached that point where he has already "obtained all or have already been made perfect." In the same way, we experience growth when our posture is that of Paul's (2 Peter 1:5-8). Who can help us keep growing in our faith walk?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

2 "... I press on to take hold . . ."

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

Paul not only understood that he has not yet arrived, at the same time he also had an attitude to "press on"—to put his hand in the plow and move forward to take hold of what Jesus has for him. In the same way for us, as we allow Jesus to take hold of our lives, we also need to put our hope in Him to never give up no matter what circumstance and challenge we face. What is one promise in the Bible that has helped you "press on" lately?

.....
.....
.....
.....

3 "... That for which Christ Jesus took hold of me."

... so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. TITUS 3:7

Paul knew his standing and was confident to persevere because he knew one powerful truth—that Jesus took hold of him first. Paul understood that he could not pursue God on his own will; his relationship with God depended solely on Jesus and on what He has done on the cross. Why can we put our full confidence in Jesus (Philippians 1:6)?

.....
.....
.....
.....