

# GOING FORWARD

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## PHILIPPIANS 3

### MAIN TAKEAWAY

You must keep going forward in your walk with Jesus because spiritual growth never stops. There is no coasting in the Christian life—move forward with momentum by focusing on fundamentals, looking to Jesus, and taking action.

### INTRODUCTION

**What hobby or activity has taught you the importance of forward momentum? Share an example, such as the thrill of speed and energy or the loss of power and control.**

**Why is a “stagnant Christian” an oxymoron? What is the difference between a stagnant life and a Spirit-filled life?**

### UNDERSTANDING

#### READ PHILIPPIANS 3:1–11

**What was the source of Paul’s confidence and motivation? How does this perspective impact your view of the past, present, and future?**

**What does it mean to have a “holy discontentment”? What did this look like for Paul?**

**Pastor Jonathan explained, “The moment you think you have ‘made it’ is the moment you start drifting backward.” How does thinking that you have “arrived” stop you from going forward?**

#### READ PHILIPPIANS 3:12–21

***Forward is Fundamental* (v.12). We were created to know God and to make Him known. What strategies can we employ to experience this purpose (Acts 2:42, 47)?**

**Why will we never outgrow the fundamentals of the faith? Why should we view these spiritual disciplines as weapons to be used rather than boxes to be checked?**

***Forward Requires Focus* (v.13). What was the “one thing” Paul focused on? What can we learn from Paul’s example of looking forward instead of backward?**

**The finish line is in front of you. What kind of vision is needed to focus and finish well (Hebrews 12:1-2)? How does looking to Jesus give perseverance (Habakkuk 3:17-18)?**

***Forward Means Action* (v.14-15). What does it look like to “press on” and go forward in the faith (Proverbs 4:25-27)? How do distractions hinder this momentum?**

**Just as streams have inlets and outlets, Christians must take in and pour out. What are some examples of this? What may happen if only one is active, or neither?**

## **APPLICATION**

**Pastor Jonathan said, “The same basics that *started* your walk will *sustain* your walk.” Like a disciplined athlete, how can you avoid becoming bored with the basics (2 Timothy 2:5)? How would you like to grow in the fundamentals of the faith?**

**In what areas are you tempted to coast, and how can you guard against this through intentional focus? Explain how you have a “holy discontentment.”**

**Pastor Jonathan encouraged us, “Don’t just fill yourself—go forward by pouring yourself out.” How are you taking action by serving others, being generous, and sharing the gospel? What other ways do you need to pour out and exercise faith?**

**We are excited to start a new series next week: “Upward, Inward, Outward.” We will discover together what it means to live with hearts turned upward to God, inward toward growth, and outward in love to others. How did this message inspire you to keep going forward in these directions?**

## **PRAYER**

**Praise God for His work in your life. Pray for forward momentum in your faith—in fundamentals, focus, and action. Thank God you can go forward because Christ has gone before you (Heb. 12:2).**