



BIBLE STUDY

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Philippians 3
Faith In Christ

Philippians 3:10-14
Faith In Christ: Press On

1. Know Christ (3:10-11)

NIV 10 I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.

The Greek word for "know" implies experiential knowledge, not just intellectual understanding.

A. In His Resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:14

New Living Translation

14 And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and **your faith is useless.**

1 Corinthians 15:17

New Living Translation

17 And if Christ has not been raised, then **your faith is useless** and you are still guilty of your sins.

1 Corinthians 15:17

Amplified Bible

17 and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless and powerless [mere delusion]; you are still in your sins [and under the control and penalty of sin].

B. In His Suffering

Romans 8:17

New Living Translation

And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.

1 Peter 4:13

Contemporary English Version

13 Be glad for the chance to suffer as Christ suffered. It will prepare you for even greater happiness when he makes his glorious return.

A. In His Death

Paul wanted to not only suffer, but to also die, in the pain, no comfort.

NIV 11 and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

2. Not Arrived (3:12-13)

NIV 12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

This is a distinct assertion of the apostle Paul that he did not regard himself as a perfect man. He had not reached that state where he was free from sin.

A. Press

The Greek word for "press on" suggests vigorous and determined effort.

There is a reference here to the Grecian races, and the meaning is, "I steadily pursue my course;"

B. Take Hold

to take hold

to take eagerly, take hold, need to grab that.

C. Forget

NIV 13 Brothers and sisters, 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,

Isaiah 43:18-19

Contemporary English Version

The Lord said:

18 Forget what happened long ago!

Don't think about the past.

19 I am creating something new.

There it is! Do you see it?

I have put roads in deserts,

Streams in thirsty lands.

D. Strain/Make an Effort

The imagery of "straining" suggests an athlete in a race, exerting maximum effort to reach the finish line.

3. Press Towards the Prize (3:14)

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

The Greek word used here suggests a vigorous pursuit, emphasizing perseverance and dedication.

1 Corinthians 9:24

Amplified Bible

24 [a]Do you not know that in a race all the runners run [their very best to win], but only one receives the prize? **Run [your race] in such a way that you may seize the prize and make it yours!**

1 Corinthians 9:24

New Living Translation

24 Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? **So run to win!**