

Stay Motivated

Scripture Passage

“Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which [is] from the law, but that which [is] through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing [I do], forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3:8-14 NKJV)

Thesis

You should never stop reaching forward to the prize ahead.

Commentary

Paul counted all things as rubbish to gain Christ. This means that he never quit striving to be like Christ. He knew his righteousness was nothing, but he pressed on with his eyes set firmly on the prize. His desire was to know the power of Christ’s resurrection.

What is this power? Isn’t it the power of life over death? “But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),” (Ephesians 2:4-5 NKJV)

My friends, you are no longer a slave of sin if Christ has raised you from the dead! However, you must stay motivated. Even Paul said, “I do not count myself to have apprehended.” No, he pressed on toward the goal, as we must.

This will mean that you will have to be conformed unto His death. This is a picture of sacrifice. “No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.” (Luke 16:13 NKJV) Seek the fellowship of His suffering for it is this attitude that will set you free.

I know it is hard now, but stay motivated because there is a great prize ahead of you if you remain steadfast. There is no prize for those who fall away; only for those who stay the course.

Father, encourage us with your words of promise. Strengthen those who are under great burdens. We ask, as James has told us, for wisdom, wisdom to endure. We don’t always understand the trials that come our way, but we know they have the design to create patience in us so that we will lack nothing. Therefore, Lord, have your way; we gladly yield our lives to your service as we press on to the upward call of God in Christ Jesus, amen.