

# How to Experience a Blessed New Year

## Philippians 3:12–16

When we come to this time of the year, we start thinking of New Years resolutions and new ways to improve our lives, but there is no better way to experience life change than to grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ. In our passage today, Philippians 3:12–16, the Apostle Paul provides wisdom for moving into the New Year. He tells us not to be weighed down by the past but press on toward a higher calling in Christ Jesus.

### Philippians 3:12-16

*Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. Only let us hold true to what we have attained.*

**The key to experiencing a blessed New Year is pursuing Christ-likeness and spiritual growth with determination and focus.**

**To do this.....**

## 1. We have to acknowledge our imperfection (v. 12)

### Philippians 3:12

*Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.*

- Paul begins by admitting he has not yet attained perfection.
- The start of a new year is about having a realistic view of who we are.
- Spiritual perfection is a process, not an achieved state.

### Philippians 1:6

*And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*

Paul is motivated by the fact that Christ has already claimed him, giving him confidence and purpose in his spiritual journey.

When you are loved and affirmed by Jesus Christ, you are affirmed by the One who matters most.

## 2. We have to forget what is behind (v. 13)

### **Philippians 3:13**

*Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead...*

- Paul is saying, don't cling to past successes or failures.
- Paul reminds us that we cannot move forward if we are constantly looking back.
- Paul couldn't help but look back at times...
- Paul would agree with Lamentations 3:22, 23 and say, "Praise God, His mercies are new every morning" (Lamentations 3:22,23).

## 3. We have to press on toward the right goals (v. 13b, 14)

### **Philippians 3:13b-14**

*But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

- Paul uses the image of an athlete running a race, straining every muscle and focusing entirely on the finish line.
- Move into the New Year pursuing the right goal.

### **Hebrews 12:1-2**

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*

As we set goals and resolutions for the new year, make sure they align the ultimate purpose of drawing closer to Christ.

- Remove distractions.
- Are the things you are striving for drawing you closer to Christ?

## 4. We must grow to spiritual maturity (v. 15)

### Philippians 3:15

*Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you.*

- Paul is addressing believers who are already spiritually mature
- Maturity refers to a mindset that prioritizes knowing Christ and striving towards godliness rather than relying on our earthly status or achievements.

## 5. We must live up to what we have attained (v. 16)

### Philippians 3:16

*Only let us hold true to what we have attained.*

- Paul concludes by reminding believers to live in alignment with the truth of the gospel they already understand.

### Isaiah 43:18-19 NIV

*Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.*

- Trust that God wants to do a new thing this year in your life.
  - Have you surrendered your life to Jesus?
  - What do you need to let go of from years past?
  - Commit to the new things that God wants you to obey and follow in 2025
  - Remember, He is with you every step of the way.
  - May the God who makes all things new lead you into a year of hope, peace and purpose in Christ Jesus.