



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

PHILIPPIANS: RESURRECTED LIFE

Press On

Philippians 3:7-14

1. Take a moment to read and absorb these verses. **Philippians 3:7-14 - 7 But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. 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, 11 and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. 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. 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, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.**

What is gripping you from this magnificent portion of Philippians?

2. Let's focus on verses 7-9. **Philippians 3:7-9 - 7 But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.** Paul says that knowing Christ is the most valuable thing in his life. Do you agree? Share what areas of your life currently do you show His value. What areas do you struggle to show His value in your life?

What does it mean to have righteousness through faith (last portion of verse 9)?

3. Verses 10-11 are powerful. **Philippians 3:10-11 want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.** Take a moment and paraphrase these verses in your own words.

What do you think it means to participate in the suffering of Christ? What do you think it means to know the power of his resurrection? How do these life focuses show up in your life as a believer?

4. **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. 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, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.** Paul's goal is to mature in his faith and become like Christ. He admits he has not arrived. How does Paul's humility strike you?

Paul's focus is clear: forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, he will press on to maturity in Christ and work to fulfill his potential. Is it difficult for you to forget what is behind, all your mistakes and failures? Explain.

Be honest, are you pressing on? Share how you practically do this. Or have you settled for treading water, not exerting the effort necessary to grow? What are some practical efforts you need to be making toward your spiritual growth?