

Rejoice in All Circumstances: Press On

Reflect

1. Describe a time in your life where you had to do something that was incredibly challenging in order to accomplish a goal.
2. What was your motivation to accomplish this goal/task?
3. If applicable, how would you describe the reward for accomplishing your goal?

Read Your Bible

- Philippians 3:7-14

Apply God's Word to Your Life

1. What do you think it means to *know* God?
2. Do you think there is a difference between *knowing* God and knowing *about* God? Explain.
3. Where would you say you fit on this spectrum? Do you feel like you *know* God, or do you feel that you merely know *about* God?

4. How would you say your faith has changed the way you live, if at all?

5. What do you think it means to become like Jesus in His death?

6. How would you describe your faith journey to someone else?

7. What is one way this week you feel you can press on in your faith and come closer to the end prize?

Conclusion

The Apostle Paul knew God personally and it changed his entire life. He went from seeking after Christians to put an end to this movement of Christianity, to seeking after Christ. His primary goal was not to become more spiritual, or knowledgeable about religion, but was to *know* Christ. For Paul, it was very personal. He changed from seeking after status and success to recognizing that all the success in this world does not mean anything if we cannot take it with us when we die. Therefore, he counted everything in this world as a loss compared to knowing Jesus Christ his Lord. In that same way, we acknowledge that God has made it possible for us to know Him and have a relationship with Him by sending His one and only Son into the world. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, by faith we can be made right with God. Our sins can be forgiven, and we can be made new creations. The offer is on the table. The question is- will we continue to live the way that this world wants us to live, or will we choose to receive His forgiveness, and move forward living how Jesus wants us to live?

Pray

Dear God, we thank You that because Jesus lived a perfect life, died a sinner's death on the Cross, and was raised to life, we too may die to our sin and have new life in Christ. So today, I confess my sins to You, asking that You make me a new creation by the power of the Holy Spirit, so that everything I do in this life would be to know You more and to make You known. Thank You for loving me, Jesus! Please help me to love You with my words, my heart, my actions, and all of my life. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen!