



## Keep pressing on! A life verse worth living

Philippians 3:13-14

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Pastor Brian Early

In 17.5 years: approx. 830 sermons, 830 staff meetings, 420 elder meetings, 5,000 days at the church

- ✓ Average tenure of a pastor in USA is six years.
- ✓ 70% of pastors battle depression.
- ✓ 1,500 pastors quit each month.
- ✓ 80% of pastors feel discouraged.
- ✓ 78% of pastors have no close friends.
- ✓ 10% of those starting off as pastors will retire as pastors.

I'm sharing core values of life that have given me the focus on the call and the endurance in race to continue toward the finish line.

The present

...<sup>13b</sup> One thing *I do*: forgetting what *lies* behind and reaching forward to what *lies* ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

The future:

<sup>NIV</sup> **2 Timothy 4:7** I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

**To be able to say in the future, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith, we need to be able to say in the present, I am pressing on!**

### Supplemental verses that are in harmony with pressing on!

<sup>NIV</sup> **Romans 12:1-2** Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will.

<sup>NIV</sup> **Hebrews 12:1-2a** Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. <sup>2</sup> Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith...

**1. Our world view must change. Jesus is the new goal when have been born again! Press on toward that!** (verse 14b)

...the **goal** for the prize of the upward call of God in **Christ Jesus**.

**Hebrews 12:2a** ...*Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith...*

**2. Those who have been born again have a call from God that we must embrace. Press on toward that!** (verse 14b)

...the goal for the prize of the **upward call** of God in Christ Jesus.

Life lesson #1: Our identity is not defined by our job, status or circumstance. It is defined by what God has made us.

**3. When God calls, He also enables. We need to be true to this. Press on toward that!**

<sup>NIV</sup> **Ephesians 4:11-12** It was [Jesus] who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and **some to be pastors and teachers**, <sup>12</sup> to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.

**4. Our call is the “one thing” that should motivate us. Press on toward that!** (verse 13b)

One thing / *do*...

Life lesson learned #2: The pursuit of “truth” and accomplishments needs balance in relationships.

Life lesson learned #3: Relationships are the means to which “the one thing” is accomplished.

Life lesson learned #4: Servant leadership seeks to become all things to all people, but sometimes you can't please everyone.

Life lesson learned #5: The “one thing” needs to also embrace caring for our family.

**5. God transforms us into being like Jesus in order to do the “one thing.” Press on toward that!**

<sup>NIV</sup> **Romans 12:2** Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Life lesson learned #6: Experiencing life-change in ourselves is amazing! Helping others to find it is so rewarding!

**6. Past failures, previous ambitions and triumphs, present temptations and trials cannot detract us from the one thing. Press on toward that!** (verse 13c)

...forgetting what *lies* behind...

<sup>NIV</sup> **Hebrews 12:1b**, ...let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles...

Life lesson learned #7: Character matters. Integrity is paramount for sustainability.

Life lesson learned #8: It is better to be an example of someone to follow than someone who we shouldn't follow.

**7. Our Christian life worth living is always a forward process requiring God's strength, courage and wisdom. Press on toward that!** (verse 13d-14a )

...and **reaching/straining forward** to what *lies* ahead <sup>14</sup> **I press on**...

Hebrews 12:1c ...and let us **run with perseverance/endurance** the **race marked out for us**...

Life lesson learned #9: Our life needs to be treated like a marathon and not a sprint.

Life lesson learned #10: We either move forward in God's courage and strength, or we lose heart and quit running.

Life lesson learned #11: We either move forward in wisdom to know the race marked out for us, or we try to move forward in foolishness and fail.

How will I press on?

How will you press on?

How will GFBC press on?