

# HOW TO SUCCEED IN GOD'S PERSPECTIVE

Philippians 3:12-21 (April 14, 2024)

<sup>12</sup> 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.

<sup>13</sup> 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,

<sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

<sup>15</sup> All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you.

<sup>16</sup> Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

<sup>17</sup> Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do.

<sup>18</sup> For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.

<sup>19</sup> Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things.

<sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,

<sup>21</sup> who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

## Paul's Pattern for Successful Living

### 1. EVALUATION: \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>12-13</sup> Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect... I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. **Philippians 3:12-13**

I don't claim that I have already succeeded or become perfect. (Good News Bible)

<sup>13</sup> You will never succeed in life if you try to hide your sins. Confess them and give them up; then God will show mercy to you. **Proverbs 28:13**

Question:

### II. ELIMINATION: \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>13</sup> But this one thing I do; forgetting what is behind... **Philippians 3:13b**

<sup>18</sup> Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See I am doing a new thing!" (says the Lord) **Isaiah 43:18**

What to Forget: \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>62</sup> (Jesus said) Anyone who starts to plow and then keeps looking back is of no use for the Kingdom of God. **Luke 9:62**

Question:

### III. CONCENTRATION: \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>13</sup> But this ONE THING I do ... straining toward what is ahead I press on toward the goal... **Philippians 3:13c**

<sup>24</sup> Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to win the prize. **1 Corinthians 9:24**

What is "The Goal"?

So we make our goal to please Him... **2 Corinthians 5:9**

Question:

### IV. DETERMINATION: \_\_\_\_\_

...I press on... straining... I press on to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

<sup>24</sup> But I reckon my own life to be worth nothing to me, in order that I may complete my mission and finish the work that the Lord Jesus gave me to do, which is to declare the Good News of the grace of God. **Acts 20:24**

<sup>7-8</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness which the Lord... will award to me on that day... **2 Timothy 4:7-8**

3 Suggestions: **Philippians 3:15-16**

1) Be humble (be dissatisfied), 2) Be teachable, 3) Be persistent

2 promises

**Galatians 6:9** "Let us not grow weary in doing good. For at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." - **Harvest is coming if not giving up.**

**Philippians 1:6** "Be confident of this very thing. That He [God] who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion unto the day of Christ Jesus." - **God will complete His work on me till Christ comes again.**

## Questions for discussion

1. How do people evaluate their spiritual growth? (Is there any objective system we can use for evaluating our spiritual growth?)
2. What are the reasons people neglect their continuous spiritual growth?
3. Do Christians understand the concept of the sequential goals of their spiritual growth development? (For example, in most cases, modern people recognize their life's sequential goals of development, such as elementary school, then middle and high school, then college, and then career, and so on.)
4. **(Personal application)** What can I do for my next step of spiritual growth?