

Striving for the Prize Pt.1:

The Prerequisites

Philippians 3:12-16

Introduction:

Spiritual Perfection – means to achieve Christ likeness. This is not possible in the flesh, but all true believers will achieve this goal at Jesus' appearing.

Compelling Reasons to Grow Spiritually:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It glorifies God• It provides evidence that our salvation is genuine• It highlights and makes visible the truth of God to others (Titus 2:10)• It brings assurance of salvation to us• It preserves believers from the sorrow and sufferings associated with spiritual immaturity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It protects the cause of Christ from being dishonored or disqualified• It produces joy in believers lives• It equips us for ministry to others in the body of Christ• And it enhances our witness to the lost world.
---	---

I. A Proper Awareness Required v.12a

- a. We must assess our spiritual condition
- b. Awareness of the need to improve our spiritual condition is necessary to pursue the prize
- c. Pursuing the prize means we must grow in our faith 2 Peter 3:18

II. A Maximum Effort Required v.12b

- a. Paul shares in "But I Press On." His maximum effort to win the prize 1 Cor 9:24
- b. The let go and let God mentality was foreign to Paul. Col 1:29

Striving for the Prize Pt.1:
The Prerequisites
Philippians 3:12-16

III. A Focused Concentration Required v.13

- c. Maximum effort is useless without a focused concentration
- d. If our focus is anywhere else except on Christ looking forward we are not fit for the Kingdom Luke 9:62

IV. A Proper Motivation Required v.14

- e. Paul's press on – denotes his continuous effort to pursue reaching the prize
- f. The prize is Christ Likeness 1 John 3:2

V. A Proper Recognition Required v.15

- g. As Many are Perfect – Paul acknowledges he was not in the Spiritual race alone; it included all Christians
- h. We are to have the mind of Christ
1 Cor 2:16

VI. A Proper Conformity Required v.16

- i. We are to live a consistent life in Christ at all times
- j. We are given 4 divinely resources to help us consistently pursue the prize
 - i. The Word of God 1 Peter 2:2
 - ii. Prayer 2 Cor 13:9
 - iii. Following a godly example 1 Cor 4:16
 - iv. God uses trials to mold believers 1 Pet 5:10