

# KEEP PRESSING TOWARD THE MARK

PHILIPPIANS 3:12-16

# Philippians 3:12 (NIV)

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.

# Philippians 3:13 (NIV)

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,

# Philippians 3:14 (NIV)

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

# Philippians 3:15 (NIV)

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.

# Philippians 3:16 (NIV)

Only let us live up to what  
we have already attained.

<sup>10</sup>Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>11</sup>For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly

and what I am doing. I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage you.

<sup>23</sup>Peace to the brothers, and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love.

# Philippians

**I** Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers<sup>b</sup> and deacons.

<sup>2</sup>Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

## Thanks and Prayer

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup>In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, <sup>5</sup>being confident of what he who

began a good work in you will carry it to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

<sup>6</sup>It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. <sup>7</sup>God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup>And this is my prayer: your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless as you await the day of Christ, <sup>9</sup>filled with the fruit of righteousness that

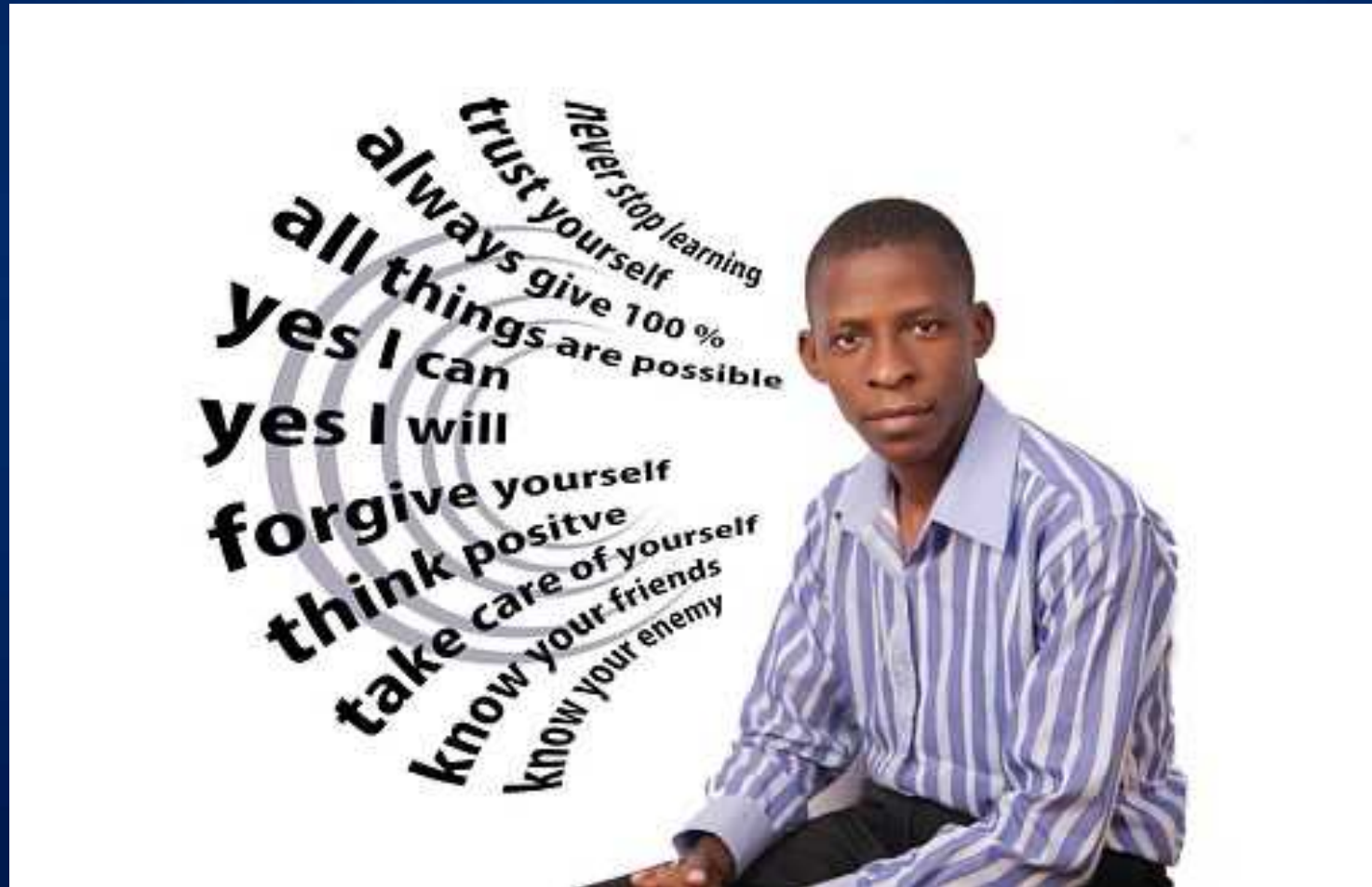
always Christ will be exalting, whether by life or by death. <sup>10</sup>For to me living is Christ and to die is gain. <sup>11</sup>I will go on living in the body, but I will also be glad to depart from the body, and to be with Christ, which is better by far. <sup>12</sup>I have been torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far, but more necessary for you that I remain in the body. <sup>13</sup>Convinced of this, I will continue to remain in the body, and I will continue to labor for you, that through my being with you in Christ Jesus will overflow to you.

<sup>14</sup>Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or whether you stand firm in one spirit, you will share with me in the faith of the gospel, not being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign that they will be destroyed, but that your faith will be preserved—and that by God. <sup>15</sup>I have trained you on behalf of the gospel, to believe on him, but also to endure hardships as I endured hardships, and as I will endure, because you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and will have.

## Imitating Christ's Humility

<sup>16</sup>If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ,

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,





# Straining toward what is ahead



# **Make Growth in Christ Your Highest Priority**

**This emphasis comes through in several places:**

**1) v. 12 - I press on ...**

**2) v. 13 - I reach forward ...**

**3) v. 14 - I press on toward ...**