

# Press On Ye Saints of God!

## Main Scripture

*Philippians 3:13-14*

*Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (NKJV)*

## Main Points

1. When Paul said he presses toward the goal, he implies that there is a pushing through resistance.
2. The first resistance Paul had to push through was accepting Jesus' version of the truth. Paul was a type A devout Jew and was stuck on the singularity of God, vv. 4-6. To him, the idea of Jesus being equal with God was idolatry. So in verse 6, Paul said he zealously defended God's "oneness" by trying to wipe out Christianity.
3. In Judaism, there is a fundamental chant they recite, "Hear oh Israel, the Lord our God is one, and there is none beside Him!" Jesus had to apprehend Paul to update his theology and set him on the right course. While on the road to Damascus to wipe out Christians, Jesus appeared from heaven in the brightness of His glory and spoke to Paul. Paul fell to the ground blind.  
That day Jesus became a boss to Paul, and Paul diligently did whatever Jesus wanted for the rest of his life. Paul's blinded eyes enabled the eyes of his soul to see the truth. Afterward, Paul got his sight back to see where Christ wanted him to go.
4. We are not too different from Paul. Before Christ, everyone has misunderstandings and wrong priorities that Jesus must straighten out. Are we willing to press through those and accept God's truth? Are we willing to accept God's new direction and purpose in that truth?
5. Paul identifies another obstacle in his path to serving Christ. He pressed through the shame and guilt of persecuting Christians. He was happy that by his efforts, they were captured, incarcerated, and executed. He literally helped a mob by holding their loose garments so they could more easily throw the stones that killed Jesus' disciple Steven. The Devil reminded Paul of that constantly. That's why he states that part of his pressing on was to forget the things that are behind, v. 13, and we must do the same. You can't move forward with God, while dragging the ball and chain of your past; let Jesus take the "bolt-cutters" of forgiveness and free you from that.
6. Reaching forward is another form of pressing on in the life and work God has for you, v. 13. This implies there is a clear direction and goal in the will of God. Paul calls this the "high calling of God in Christ Jesus", v. 14. In v. 12, he states that he has not yet reached the end of that calling, and God isn't done with him yet, so he says that he keeps following after 'til he apprehends what Jesus apprehended him to do. We cannot let anything interfere with us "following after" the life and calling of God. We must press on ye saints of God!