



**The Truth About Moving Forward  
(You Must Be Willing to Reach)**

**June 12, 2022**

**Series Summary: Four Things That Will Help You Move Forward**

- A. Forgetting** (Requires a high level of maturity to let things go)
- B. Reaching** (Requires a clear sense of direction- you can only reach for what you can see!)
- C. Pressing** (Requires a stubborn level of grit)
- D. Believing** (Requires unwavering faith)

**Text: Philippians 3:13–14, NIV**

- 13 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, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize** for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

**Big Question:** What are you straining and reaching for?

**Side Question:** Do the people around you inspire you to stretch?

**I. Four Practical Observations**

- 1. Paul Was Reaching Toward His **Future** (It's important to not be tied to the past)
- 2. Paul was Reaching Toward a Specific **Goal** (It is important to have a specific target)
- 3. Paul was Reaching Toward a **Prize** (It's ok to want to win and gain a prize)
- 4. Paul was Reaching **Heavenward** (Set not your affections on things on the earth, Col 3:2)

**II. Three Questions to Consider**

- 1. **What are you reaching toward in your future?**
  - A.** In your personal life
  - B.** In your work or professional life
- 2. **What are your specific goals?**
  - A.** What is your target?
  - B.** What will this target do for you?

**3. What is the prize you are reaching for?**

- A. What is the name of your prize?
- B. Can you name a prize winner in your life? (Do you know a winner?)

**III. Reaching Advice Paul Gave Timothy**

**Text: 2 Timothy 4:1–8 (NIV):**

- **v1** In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge:

**1. Reach with Careful Instruction (Be careful)**

- 2 Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and **careful instruction**.

**2. Reach with Sound Doctrine (Be informed)**

- 3 For the time will come when people will not put up with **sound doctrine**. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

**3. Reach with a Clear Head (Be mature)**

- 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. 5 But you, **keep your head in all situations**, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

**4. Reach with a Mature Sense of Your Mortality (Be honest and prepared)**

- 6 For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and **the time for my departure is near**.

**5. Reach in a Heavenward (or Upward) Direction**

- 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Now there is in store for me **the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day**—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

**Conclusion:**

- Paul chose the image of a runner that was racing and leaning in to win the races. He was in prison waiting to die and spoke with confidence and courage. How do you respond to seasons when you are tempted to stop reaching?

**Next Time:** You Must Be Willing to Press and Develop Fatherly Grit