



Sermon Series Joy in Jesus
Pressing on for more of Jesus – Philippians 3:12-21
Sunday Feb 18 of 2024 Small Group Notes

What is an example (without bragging) of something you have done that took great effort. What steps did you take toward your goal?

How do we hold a balance between our spiritual life being ‘in secret’ and encouraging each other in such a way that others can follow our example?

When have you seen an example of someone being truly great at something? What did it take for them to get to that level?

Why is it easier to put effort into training for a marathon than into our spiritual growth?

Read Phil 3:12-14

What stands out to you?

Read 1 Cor 9:24-25

What similarities do you see in these passages?

What stands out to you from this passage?

How can we take responsibility for our spiritual growth, or get proactive in our spiritual growth? What might that look like?

How do we balance a passage like this that challenges us to ‘press on’ with a passage like Matthew 11:28-30 where Jesus says, ‘my yoke is easy and my burden is light’?

Our Foundation

Read Phil 3:12-21 (whole passage for today)

What do you see from across the passage about who we are as Christians? Why is this foundation important? How can we be more aware of this foundation?

How can we put effort into our faith without slipping into a works mentality (where we see our value before God as based on our effort instead of His love for us)?

Our goal

Can you think of a time when having a goal helped you accomplish something?

How would you describe our goal as Christians? What is the prize that Paul is straining toward?

How does this give our lives more purpose and meaning?

Jesus was comfortable with taking life slow, in line with God's timing and purposes. How can we have urgency in line with our overall purpose combined with an ability to enjoy each moment as a gift from God?

What might it look like to have a healthy discontent in regard to our spiritual life? When might an unhealthy discontent look like?

If we find apathy in our heart in regard to our faith how can we address this?

Our means (specifically learning from others, both good and bad)

Learning from the (good) example of others

Read Phil 3:17

What stands out to you from this verse in regard to following the good example of others?

When have you seen the power of a good example?

Learning from the bad example of others

Read Phil 3:18-20

Why, do you think, Paul would write this 'with tears'?

What does Paul highlight about the bad example that can be seen in others? What stands out to you?

Read 1 Cor 9:24

Read Phil 3:14

When have you seen competition bring out the best in someone?

What might it mean, or not mean, for us to have a competitive mindset in regard to our faith?