

“KEEP REACHING FORWARD!”

Philippians 3:13b-14 – “...forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”



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As we close the chapter for 2017, I urge you to leave all the negativity, the disappointments, the severed relationships, the lies, the deceit, the hurt, the sickness, the depression, the shattered dreams, the loss of hope, the stifling fear, the uncertainty about tomorrow, the unconfessed sins, the gossiping, the backbiting, the idleness, the cruelty, the unforgiving spirit, the indecisiveness, the bad choices, the lack of vision, the lack of income, and the unexpected failures all behind you. Do not bring any of that into 2018. You must forget all of that because the past is the past. And every day that you are still here, is another opportunity to keep reaching forward!

It doesn't matter that you feel you missed the mark in 2017! It doesn't matter that your marriage didn't work out, your child is strung out on drugs, you didn't get the job you just knew you had landed, your best friend no longer communicates with you, you lost your house to foreclosure, your car was repossessed, your brother or sister, niece or nephew was senselessly shot down in cold blood, the doctor has given you a bad medical report, your loved one died and left you all alone and vulnerable, you didn't get accepted into the university you really wanted to attend, you went places you knew you should not go, you said things that were not becoming of a Christian, you did things in the dark you would never want anyone to find out about, and you did those ungodly things with someone you shouldn't have been with in the first place, you're not happy in the mental or physical state you're in, you didn't attend worship service faithfully and regularly like you know you should, you didn't pay your tithes and your free will offering because you felt you couldn't afford to, you didn't volunteer or agree to serve in ministry at your local church, or you just can't seem to get your relationship right with God. Through time and chance, you still have another opportunity to keep reaching forward! It really doesn't matter where you've been or what you've done. What matters now is where you are heading!

We serve a God of another chance – not just a second chance! Romans 3:23 says, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;” But the answer to that dilemma is found in 1 John 1:19, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” Ain't that good news? Acts 17:28a reminds us that, “For in him we live, and move, and have our being;” So as long as we are in Him and He is in us, we always have an opportunity to get it right! So as you enter into 2018, don't waste your time, effort and energy on the past. Do you know what the word “past” really means? The dictionary defines the word “past” as 1. no longer current; gone by; over: 2. having existed or occurred in an earlier time; bygone: 3a. earlier than the present time; ago: b. just gone by or elapsed: It's pretty difficult to drive forward while looking backwards. As you continue to move forward, notice all the things in the rear view mirror begin to look smaller and pretty soon they completely disappear out of your view. Why? Because the past is the past.

Please take the time during this Holiday Season to reflect on the things you were not able to complete in 2017. Make a list and then bring those things before the Lord! Get deep into His word so that you will confidently know what His will is for your life. Listen, some of the things on your list just might not have been in the will of God. Seek Him diligently because He is a rewarder of them who do just that. Once you are clear on your direction, write the vision down and review it on a daily basis so that it stays in your head and in your heart! Then set small achievable goals for completing the task and put one foot before the other as you move forward in your purpose and in your destiny! Speak these words repeatedly until they reside deep in your spirit, “I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.” No matter what, keep reaching forward! May the God of great grace grant you bountiful blessings in 2018. Happy New Year!

BBlessed and Let Love Abound!

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