



Reaching the Finish Line
Philippians 3:7-16



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7. But everything that was a gain to me, I have considered to be a loss because of Christ.
8. More than that, I also consider everything to be a loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Because of Him I have suffered the loss of all things and consider them filth, so that I may gain Christ
9. and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own from the law, but one that is through faith in Christ—the righteousness from God based on faith.



10. My goal is to know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,
11. assuming that I will somehow reach the resurrection from among the dead.
12. Not that I have already reached the goal or am already fully mature, but I make every effort to take hold of it because I also have been taken hold of by Christ Jesus.
13. Brothers, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead,



14. I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God's heavenly call in Christ Jesus.
15. Therefore, all who are mature should think this way. And if you think differently about anything, God will reveal this to you also.
16. In any case, we should live up to whatever truth we have attained.



The Christian's 4 Goals

- **To Know Christ Intimately**
 - “My goal is to know Him” Vs. 10
- **To Experience Resurrection Power**
 - “And the power of His resurrection” Vs. 10
- **To Die to Self**
 - “And the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death” Vs. 10
- **To Persevere to the End**
 - “Assuming that I will somehow reach the resurrection from among the dead.” Vs. 11

A photograph of a red running track with white lane markings, curving around a green field. In the background, there are some buildings and a stone wall. The text "Seven Keys to Reaching the Finish Line" is overlaid on the track in a yellow font with a black outline.

Seven Keys to Reaching the Finish Line



1. Know Where You Are

- “Not that I have already reached the goal or am already fully mature” Vs. 12
- “Brothers, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it.” Vs. 13

2. Know Where It Begins

- Vs. 12 “I make every effort to take hold of it because I also have been taken hold of by Christ Jesus.”

3. Simplify Your Life

- Vs. 13 “But one thing I do”
- NLT: “I am focusing all my energies on this one thing”
- Heb 12:1 “...Let us lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily ensnares us, and run with endurance the race that lies before us”

4. Forget the Past

- Vs. 13 “Forgetting what is behind”
- Phillips: “I leave the past behind ”
- Guilt: Being haunted by past sin
- Achievement: “Resting on my laurels”
- Nostalgia: Longing for the “Good ole days”

5. Be Forward Leaning

- Vs. 13, ESV “Straining forward to what lies ahead”
- Phillips: “With hands outstretched to whatever lies ahead I go straight for the goal”





6. Give Maximum Effort

- Vs. 12 “I make every effort”
- Vs. 14 “I pursue as my goal”

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- Vs. 12 “I make every effort”
- Vs. 14 “I pursue as my goal”
- Vs. 12 & 14, NAS95: “I **press on**”

To pursue aggressively



7. Keep Your Eyes on the Prize

- Vs. 14, Weymouth: “With my eyes fixed on the goal I push on to secure the prize of God’s heavenward call in Christ Jesus.”

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- Vs. 14, Weymouth: “With my eyes fixed on the **goal** I push on to secure the prize of God’s heavenward call in Christ Jesus.”

Literally, “Bearing down on the ‘goal marker’”

7. Keep Your Eyes on the Prize

- Vs. 14, Weymouth: “With my eyes fixed on the goal I push on to secure **the prize of God’s heavenward call** in Christ Jesus.”

Vs. 20-21 “But there's far more to life for us. We're citizens of high heaven! We're waiting the arrival of the Savior, the Master, Jesus Christ, who will transform our earthy bodies into glorious bodies like his own. He'll make us beautiful and whole...” (MSG)

