

REAL
PEOPLE
REAL GROWTH
A REAL CHRIST

BECOMING

A Journey Through Philippians



WEEK 5 —

I'M NOT THERE YET

Philippians 3:1–16 | *Leaving the old and pursuing Christ.*



THE BIG IDEA

Spiritual maturity is not pretending that we have arrived; it is releasing what once defined us and continually pursuing the life Christ has called us toward.



SERIES QUESTION

What does it look like to become more like Christ in real life?



BEFORE WE BEGIN

Where are you most tempted to pretend you have already arrived?



CONTEXTUAL BACKGROUND — PHILIPPIANS 3

In Philippians 3, Paul warns the church about putting confidence in the flesh — including religious credentials, heritage, and personal achievement. Though he had an impressive résumé, Paul considered it all loss compared to knowing Christ. He shifts from status and self-reliance to valuing Christ above everything, calling believers to leave the old life behind and press forward toward the prize.

*Not a better
résumé,
but a deeper
relationship.*

1



1. WATCH WHAT YOU TRUST (Philippians 3:1–6)

LOOK CLOSER.
TRUST WISER.

Paul begins with a warning: don't put confidence in the flesh. Spiritual formation starts when we're honest about what we rely on. Good things — like our background, performance, or religious activity — can become dangerous when they take the place of dependence on Christ.

- 1 Spiritual formation begins by exposing what we _____.
- 2 Paul warns against putting confidence in the _____.
- 3 Religious credentials can never replace living dependence on _____.



REFLECT

What good thing in your life could become a dangerous thing if you trust it more than Christ?

2



2. REVALUE WHAT MATTERS (Philippians 3:7–11)

A DIFFERENT
PERSPECTIVE
CHANGES EVERYTHING.

Paul describes a radical shift in what he values. What once gave him status now seems like loss compared to knowing Christ. True transformation changes what we consider important, as we come to treasure Christ above everything else.

- 4 Transformation changes what we consider _____.
- 5 Paul counts his former gains as _____ compared to knowing Christ.
- 6 Paul wants the righteousness that comes through _____ in Christ.
- 7 Paul's greatest desire is to _____ Christ.



THINK ABOUT IT

What once seemed essential to your identity that now matters less because of Jesus?

BECOMING *A Journey Through Philippians*

PROGRESS
NOT PERFECTION
A LIFE OF PURPOSE

3



3. ADMIT YOU'RE NOT THERE YET (Philippians 3:12-14)

HONEST TODAY.
FURTHER TOMORROW.

Paul doesn't pretend he has arrived. He eagerly presses on, knowing that Christ has taken hold of him. Grace frees us to admit we are still growing. We pursue maturity not to earn God's love, but because we already belong to Christ.

- 8 Grace allows me to admit that I am still _____.
- 9 Paul presses on because Christ has already taken _____ of him.
- 10 We pursue growth not to earn God's love, but because we already _____ to Christ.
- 11 Sometimes what keeps you from becoming is not just your worst memory, but your best _____.



REFLECT

Which is harder for you to release: a regret, an achievement, or an old identity? Why?

4



4. LIVE WHAT YOU'VE ALREADY LEARNED (Philippians 3:15-16)

KEEP GROWING.
KEEP OBEYING.

Paul encourages believers to live consistently with what they already know, while remaining humble and teachable. Spiritual maturity isn't about having all the answers — it's about continuing to grow and obey what God has already shown you.

- 12 One evidence of maturity is knowing you still have room to _____.
- 13 Maturity remains _____ and teachable.
- 14 You do not have to know everything before you obey _____.



REFLECT

What truth has God already shown you that you need to practice more faithfully?

>> RELEASE & REACH

LET GO OF WHAT HELD YOU.
PRESS TOWARD WHAT HE'S CALLING YOU TO.



RELEASE

What must I stop allowing to define me?



REACH

What is Christ calling me to pursue?



TALK ABOUT IT

- 1 What kinds of "résumés" tempt church people today to feel spiritually secure?
- 2 What's the difference between gratitude for your past and confidence in your past?
- 3 Why is "I'm not there yet" actually a mature statement?
- 4 What truth do you already know that you need to start living?



BECOMING PRACTICE

SMALL STEPS.
REAL PROGRESS.

Each morning pray: "Jesus, remind me what I need to release and show me what faithful pursuit looks like today."

Each evening write one sentence describing where you noticed Christ pulling you forward.



A CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, help me to be honest about where I am, to release what no longer serves You, and to keep pressing forward in Christ. Give me a humble heart, a teachable spirit, and a faithful resolve. I'm not there yet, but I trust that You are still working in me. Amen.

TODAY'S TAKEAWAY

I'm not there yet—but Christ has taken hold of me,
so I will keep pressing forward.

SAME
GRACE.
FURTHER
THAN YESTERDAY.

The Journey Continues...