



Pressing On After Christ Jesus

*“Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect,
but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.”*

Philippians 3:12 (NIV)

Prayer Focus: Salvation is not simply a one-time act of being saved from our sins of the past. Paul states that there is a destiny of perfection that must compel believers to press on toward the fullness of Christ and His glory. The Lord’s purpose for His redeemed ones goes beyond merely escaping from eternal condemnation. Paul was pressing on for so much more! The word actually means to run swiftly in order to reach a goal. Paul’s life was not finished when he surrendered his life to Jesus on the road to Damascus. His life was completely transformed to one that was running a new race—a race dedicated to apprehending all that Christ had in mind for him. Jesus Christ has taken hold of you by His grace with a destiny in His heart for you. But you must press on after Him in order to be all that Jesus desires you to be. Later in verses 15-16, Paul says that this unwavering determination is a sign of maturity in the Christian life. Jesus is more than our Savior - He is the sum total of everything we hope for and pursue for the rest of our living moments here on earth!

Day 1: Praise God for His destiny of perfection for you.

Day 2: Worship Jesus as being worthy of your “pressing on” toward all that He has to offer you.

Day 3: Ask the Lord to stir within you a heart of determination to press on with abandonment toward His purposes.

Day 4: Repent of those things that hinder you from wholeheartedly seeking God’s destiny for your life.

Day 5: Pray that leaders in your church will have the same heart as Paul to relentlessly pursue Christ.

Day 6: Pray that believers will experience dramatic change in their lives beyond just an intellectual assent to Christ.

Day 7: Pray for a growing movement of believers in your community whose hearts are abandoned to pressing on after Jesus.

Taken from the book “Come, Lord Jesus: transformation prayer guide”

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Jesus Christ as our Savior

It's all about Jesus! How often have you given intellectual assent to that truth? But do you live with the assurance and passion in your heart that Jesus is truly the *only way, the only truth, and the only life*? If you are not clear on this, you will soon be facing confusing and fearful times in a world that shakes with uncertainty.

Jesus made the declaration Himself in John 14:6: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me." Jesus does not acquiesce to popular opinion, tolerance, or political correctness. He does not make exceptions for those who might be sincere yet believe in another god. He makes no allowance for truth to be relative to culture. He does not ask us to package Him in such a way that unbelievers can accept a watered-down version of His Lordship. It's Jesus as He is—Savior of the world. Take Him or leave Him, but don't try to redefine Him.

The most powerful prayer in all of Scripture is the prayer that Jesus Himself offered in John 17. In part, He prayed: "*Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son so he can give glory back to you. For you have given him authority over everyone in all the earth. He gives eternal life to each one you have given him. And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth*" (vs. 1-3, NLT).

Everyone on earth comes under the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ. So whether you believe in Him or not does not change His power, place, and position as your only hope for a Savior. It is only through Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection to life that we have any hope at all. Your eternal life depends on your belief in and obedience to Jesus: "*And all who believe in God's Son have eternal life. Those who don't obey the Son will never experience eternal life, but the wrath of God remains upon them*" (John 3:36).

As you encounter the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior in this next section, you will be confronted with the truth: *It's all about Jesus! Repent and believe, which means truly repent and turn from sin*, believing that Jesus is your only hope for salvation from the eternal wrath of God!

It is not about simply "praying a prayer," although prayer is the means of calling out to Jesus for His grace. It is about a true heart change and surrender of your life to Jesus Christ. Don't be counted among the many who will one day regret the reality of John 16:9: "The world's Jesus Christ as Our Savior sin is unbelief in me." Now is the time to repent and believe!

Transformation: Jesus in Our Midst

As we pray about transformation; we need a common definition of what a truly transformed community might look like:

A transformed community is:

- A neighbourhood, city, or nation whose values and institutions have been overrun by the grace and presence of God.
- A place where divine fire has not merely been summoned, but has fallen.
- A society in which natural change has been disrupted by invasive supernatural power.
- A culture that has been impacted comprehensively and undeniably by the Kingdom of God.
- A location where Kingdom values are celebrated publicly and passed on to future generations.

Community transformation is indicated when:

- Political leaders publicly acknowledge their sin and dependence on God. (2 Kings 11:17-18; 23:1-3; Jonah 3:6-9)
- New laws, curricula, and business practices are put into effect. (2 Chronicles 19:4-10; Nehemiah 10:31)
- The natural environment is restored to its original life-nurturing state. (Leviticus 26:4-5; 2 Chronicles 7:14; Ezekiel 34:27-31)
- Economic conditions improve and lead to a discernible lessening of poverty. (2 Chronicles 17:3-5; Psalm 144:13-14; Isaiah 60:5-7; Amos 9:13)
- There is a marked change in social entertainment and vices as Kingdom values are integrated into the rhythm of daily life. (Ezra 10:1-4; Nehemiah 8:10, 16-17; Acts 19:17-20)
- Crime and corruption diminish throughout the community. (2 Kings 12:13-15; Nehemiah 5:6-12; Isaiah 60:17-18)
- Volunteerism increases as Christians recognize their responsibility to heal and undergird the community. (Isaiah 58:10-12; 61:1-4)
- Restored hope and joy leads to a decline in divorce, bankruptcy, and suicide. (Nehemiah 12:27-28, 43; Isaiah 54:11-14; 61:3-7; Jeremiah 30:17-19; 31:11-13; Hosea 2:15)
- The spiritual nature of the growing socio-political renewal becomes a hot topic in secular media. (2 Chronicles 20:29; Nehemiah 6:16; Isaiah 55:5; Ezekiel 36:36; Acts 19:17).
- Overwhelmed by the goodness of God, grateful Christians take the embers of revival into surrounding communities and nations. (2 Chronicles 17:9; Isaiah 61:6; Acts 11:20-26).

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About Prayer Transformation Ministries

This prayer guide is written and published by Prayer Transformation Ministries, a ministry located in Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN. Since 1993, Prayer Transformation Ministries (PTM) has worked with the prayer movement in the Twin Cities, the state of Minnesota, and the nation.

Prayer Transformation Ministries *provides Christ-centered awareness, training, and equipping for personal and societal transformation.*

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Prayer Transformation Ministries serves by:

- Teaching/writing on principles of revival and transformation.
- Encouraging local churches to develop "cultures of prayer."
- Publishing prayer guides devoted to united prayer.
- Networking intercessors and prayer movements.
- Giving leadership to citywide catalytic prayer events.
- Producing *Call to Prayer* radio spots.
- Encouraging a children's prayer movement.
- Training and networking local church prayer leaders.

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