

PPT - "I Press On"

Sunday, December 26, 2021

Senior Pastor, Dr. Janet Cook

This is a Transition time. We are moving from 2021 to 2022.

Definition of Transition: movement, passage, or change from one position, state, stage, subject, concept, to another.

**"One Thing I Do: Forgetting What Lies Behind"**

Philippians 3:13-14 "Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." (ESV)

Colossians 2:12 "buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead." (NKJV)

2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." (ESV)

Forgetting what lies behind

1. Identify the problem - A mistake, error, or sin that you regret.

There is an account of a woman caught in sin in the book of John.

John 8:3-11

3The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group 4and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. 5In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?"

6They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.

7But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." 8Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

9At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. 10Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" 11"No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

Psalms 103:12 (NKJV) As far as the east is from the west,  
So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

Transition Instructions

1. Be open and flexible to God's plans, purposes and surprises in the New Year.

Isaiah 55:9 - "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

2. Surround yourself with Godly counsel in the New Year. Proverbs 15:22 - Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.

3. Be slow to speak, quick to listen and extremely alert in the New Year. James 1:19-20 - My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.

4. Make a decision to come to Church. Get planted in the House of the Lord and deepen your relationship with God by being committed. Hebrews 10:25 - Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Psalm 92:13 - Those who are planted in the house of the LORD Shall flourish in the courts of our God. (NKJV)

5. Learn from the mistakes you made in 2021 and move on. Isaiah 43:18-19 - "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland."

God is more interested in your future than He is with your past. That's where you're going to spend the rest of your life. He says, "Forget about the former things. Don't think about it. Look at the new thing I'm going to do."

6. Do not entertain feelings of fear and uncertainty. Confess God's Word over your life.

Isaiah 41:10 - So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

7. Write down your goals for the New Year and ask your Pastors or Elders to pray with you.

Psalm 37:5 - Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass. (NJKV)

### **Refocus on the high call.**

Philippians 3:13-14 "Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." (ESV)

### **Two Goals of the Christian Life**

1. Goal of external accomplishment – what we do for God
2. Goal of internal development – what we become in God

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2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” (ESV)

**What happened in 2021 that you need to bring to Jesus?**

**Bring it to Jesus.**

Hebrews 4:14-16 (ESV) Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**Take the necessary action.**

1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (NIV)

- Confess
- Repent
- Forgive
- Surrender or release

Romans 8:28 “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” (NIV)

**Prayer Proclamation**

"God You promised to work it all together for good so Lord I am looking for the good you are bringing me in the midst of this \_\_\_\_\_ (whatever the change is)!"

"Lord, with the right heart attitude I willingly release to you \_\_\_\_\_ and I lovingly embrace your will for my life and accept this change. For you are the one ordering my steps and giving me hope and my future."