

Press In!

Phip 3:14 I **press toward** the **mark** for the **prize** of the **high calling** of God in Christ Jesus.

What did Paul “**I PRESS**” – words like passion, zeal, diligence, priority, participation, are appropriate -

Paul set his course, set his mind and set his heart to complete the **WHOLE** desire and purpose of God in every situation, circumstance, problem, attack, good day, bad day and so forth that would exist. Moreover, to do this every day, every minute, by faith in God and in His word.

A great story in the Bible of “pressing” is found in–

Mar 5:27 When she had **heard** of Jesus, came in the **press** behind, and **touched his garment**. She heard, she pressed, she touched, she was healed
She already had her mind and heart set – She only needed a contact to receive
She touched and what she said and believed came to pass

She had total disregard for her condition, her background, her church affiliation, Her reputation – she just “PRESSED” - - -

Mar 10:46 And they came to Jericho: and as he went out of Jericho with his disciples and a great number of people, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the highway side begging. They told him to hush, He got louder – Jesus stopped – He was healed

Some times we just have to GET UP and press through to Jesus for our help –

Press means: to pursue, ensue, **follow** (after), seek after eagerly, **earnestly endeavor to acquire** – reach for, an aggressive pursuit, exert energy to get, Follow through a course of action

Mat 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will **come after me**, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and **follow me**. (DENY MEANS TO DISOWN YOURSELF – Jesus NOW OWNS YOU)

We are not our own but have been bought with a price -

To follow Jesus is to live our lives according to His ways and teachings – He moves we move, He speaks we speak, He acts we act -

Everybody wants Breakthrough –what is breakthrough?

To move through or beyond any barrier, obstacle, hindrance that the enemy sets up to block our forward movement in God or to block our receiving from God. (breaking out of sickness into health, poverty into wealth, peace and joy over turmoil and depression, light over dark, faith over fear,

Joshua and Caleb – These two men were of a different cut than the rest – they believed God.

They started out believing God they came back believing God and they continued to believe God.

Num 13:30 And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it. Read the next few verses -

PRESSING IN REQUIRES FAITH AND A TOTAL LACK OF UNBELIEF.

PRESSING IN REQUIRES FREEDOM AND A TOTAL LACK OF FEAR OF MAN.

How many of you have been accused of having a total lack of unbelief?

How many of us have been rebuked and chastised for having too much faith – for praying too much – for being too kind, for giving away too much money, for loving way too much – Get the point!

PRESSING IN REQUIRES - Absolute obedience - Battle of Jericho - (doing weird stuff for Jesus)

They were told to do something that most Christians could not do –

Jos 6:10 And Joshua had commanded the people, saying, **Ye shall not shout, nor make any noise with your voice, neither shall any word proceed out of your mouth**, until the day I bid you shout; then shall ye shout. (they could not make a sound for 7 days as they marched around the city)

Because they obeyed the plan of God they received total victory and the **breakthrough** that they wanted.

Jos 6:2 And the LORD said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valor.

The best description of pressing into God is that we give God “all of us” – we do not hold back any area of our lives that we want to control, or anything that we want to continue doing that God said stop. And so forth.

One word comes forth here and that is “**PRIORITIES**” – **WE MUST HAVE God's PRIORITIES TO STAY IN VICTORY.**

PAUL SAID IT THIS WAY -

Php 3:8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of **the knowledge of Christ Jesus** my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and **do count them but dung**, that I may win Christ,

TWO STATEMENTS – IN THE FLESH – IN THE SPIRIT - -

Gal 5:16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

Gal 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

The flesh will never “press into” the things of God – the flesh wants to be served, pampered, waited on etc.

The Spirit of God will not force you to be “in the Spirit” – we must do it, choose it, press into it.

IN THE SPIRIT – WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

To be completely conscience of and cooperative with the Spirit of God in the middle of all the worldly distractions and problems. **This would mean to be led by the Spirit at all times, to listen to the Spirit at all times and to obey the Spirit at all times. – which causes the fruit of the Spirit come forth in our lives -**

Lets address a few areas:

- **SENSITIVITY TO THE SPIRIT** – most of us who have not been taught or who are not living in the Spirit tend to be dull in our spiritual senses – seeing, hearing, touching, tasting and smelling – Just like in the natural or in the flesh we have 5 senses. The knowledge of the difference is paramount in our Christian walk.

Gal 5:17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

- **PRAISE AND WORSHIP – Is not entering in to worship of God a sin?**

We used to sing and praise and lead the people into the presence of God or at least up to the door NOW – we just invite the presence of God and worship Him in His presence. There is no more coaxing to get people to worship – He is here – Worship Him.

Now do not get me wrong – everyone will not worship exactly the same **but everyone will worship.**

Why do we shy back, not enter in, not press, not participate

SOME KEYS THAT EFFECT US ALL - -

1. “I don’t know what to do, (small possibility of some truth in this, but not for long)
2. I am uncomfortable with doing what I know. (this is the real bottom line – embarrassment)
Who will see me, what will they think or I am just too shy to do anything in worship)
I’M NOT A PENTECOSTAL, A CHARISMANIAC, OH HEAVEN FORBID A “HOLY ROLLER” –
THEN WHAT ARE YOU? YOU SHOULD BE A CHRISTIAN WHO WILL WORSHIP God IN WHAT EVER WAY THE HOLY SPIRIT LEADS YOU TO WORSHIP – WHICH HE WILL TAKE YOU OUT OR YOUR COMFORT ZONE.
3. Worse case, I am not doing any of that!! This is nothing more than plain old rebellion against God.

Col 3:17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.