



## PRAY FIRST - DAILY DEVOTIONAL

### DAY 12

*<sup>12</sup> I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. <sup>13</sup> No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.* (Philippians 3:12-14)

The Apostle Paul gives us a glimpse into his journey of becoming more and more holy, showing us that it's a process. In fact, he admits that He has a long way to go.

***"No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it..."*** (Philippians 3:11)

It encourages me to know that the Apostle Paul was also a work in progress. He says, *"Am I there yet? Not yet, not today, not tomorrow. But this one thing I do: I just don't give up. I just keep after it."* Paul prepares us by helping us understand that you will often fail in pursuing holiness. So, what do we do when we fail? Paul gives us a strategy - he tells us to ***"forget"*** (v.13)

***"Forgetting the past..."***, he says. Now, this is kind of odd. We tend to think of forgetting as a bad thing. Something that we shouldn't do. Of course, we should never forget things, like your anniversary or your PIN. But one of the most powerful practices you can develop is the discipline of forgetting those things in your past that hinder you from becoming holy. One of the questions you need to ask the Holy Spirit is, *"Will you help me, Holy Spirit, to overcome my yesterdays -- Yesterday's mistakes and sin and guilt and inadequacy and disappointment?"*

We need to confess. We need to set right whatever it is that we can put right. We need to learn from our past. But then we've got to move on. We can't be trapped, shackled, imprisoned to yesterday's regrets because sanctification is a journey, it's a process, it's not an event. It's why Paul says, *"I forget the past."*

Be patient because the danger is not that you'll slip. That's guaranteed. The danger is that when you slip, you'll get discouraged and impatient and give up. People often say, *"I get so discouraged. I've been wrestling with the same sin for so long. What do I do?"*

***Keep going.***

Paul says he forgets what is behind him. He's ruthless about forgetting the past. He neither allows his failures nor successes to keep him trapped in yesterday. He forgets and then chooses to keep moving towards holiness.

**READ:** Romans 7:1-25

**JOURNAL (Reflect):**

- Lord, what do you want to teach me from this passage of Scripture?
- Holy Spirit, is anything from my past holding me back from becoming more holy? What do you want me to "*forget*" so that I can continue to move forward?

**PRAY:**

- Thank the Lord for where He has brought you so far. Thank Him that He sees you as Holy and is making you holy. Make a list of as many things you can think that God has done in your life that you are thankful for.