



- Go on to maturity
- Consequences of not pressing on



- Hebrews 6:1 (ESV) Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,



Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but **I press on** to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

Philippians 3:12; NT p. 342

- Philippians 3:12 (ESV) 12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.



- Saints who are mature press on...
 - (CWSB Dictionary) To follow or press hard after, to pursue with earnestness and diligence in order to obtain, to go after with the desire of obtaining
 - (Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary) used as a metaphor from the footrace, in Phil. 3:12, 14, of "speeding on earnestly,"



- forgetting what lies behind
 - confidence of flesh: 5-6: circumcision, people of Israel, Benjamin, Hebrew of Hebrews, Pharisee, Persecutor, Blameless
 - Sins
 - Pride (fame, education, achievements)
- Luke 9:62: Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."



- Straining forward to what lies ahead
 - “reaching forward”
 - Hebrews 6:1 Therefore let us **leave** the elementary doctrine of Christ and **go on** to maturity, not laying again a foundation



- Toward the Goal
 - v. 14: prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus
 - v. 8: knowing Christ
 - v. 9: found in him
 - v. 9: righteousness from God through faith
 - v. 10: know Him and power of resurrection
 - v. 10: share in sufferings
 - v. 10: like him in his death
 - v. 11: resurrection from the dead

If We Don't Press On



- If we don't press on, what will happen?
 - This is not just looking back, or even turning back
 - This is also a failure to strive forward to Christ!



- We will remain Children
 - 1 Corinthians 14:20 (ESV) 20 Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature
- Math: Arithmetic to Calculus.



- Ephesians 4:13-16 (ESV) 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

If We Don't Press On

☞ we will remain children

1 Corinthians 14:20, NT p. 301

so that we may no longer be children,
tossed to and fro by the waves and carried
about by every wind of doctrine, by human
cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

Ephesians 4:14, NT p. 335

- 14 so that we may no longer be children,
 - tossed to and fro by the waves and
 - carried about by every wind
 - of doctrine,
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Ephesians 4:14, NT p. 335

- 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love,
 - we are to grow up **in every way** into him who is the head, into Christ,
 - 16 from whom the whole body,
 - joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped,
 - when each part is working properly,
 - makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.



- Galatians 3:1-3 (ESV) 1 O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. 2 Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? 3 Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?



- Bewitched
 - (TDNT - Abridged) The use is figurative, but not without some realism insofar as the power of falsehood stands behind magic. In yielding to these 'magicians' the Galatians have come under the power of untruth.
 - (ESV SB Notes) 3:1 Who has bewitched you. Paul uses the language of pagan magic to characterize the pernicious activity of the false teachers and the perilous situation of the Galatians.



- Works of Law vs. **Hearing with Faith**
 - Receive spirit by faith and baptism and gifts?
 - Works of law — perfect (?) obedience, keeping old law.
- **Begun by the Spirit** vs. perfected by the Flesh
 - Is our maturity achieved by perfect law keeping?
 - We begin in the Spirit: salvation is not a “physical” thing.



- Paul is arguing that if we don't press on to Christ our focus becomes something other than Him.
 - It's like the snake in "Jungle Book" (Kaa)
 - Somehow we are convinced that something that is not true, is true, and we follow after it.



- Somehow we are convinced that something that is not true, is true, and we follow after it.
 - Galatians were following law instead of Christ and Spirit
- We can fall into this same trap if we refuse to grow up.
 - Certain chosen doctrines, traditions, group, teacher
 - It often feels true, religious, spiritual... but it's the flesh!
 - Instead of Christ



- Romans 6:20-23 (ESV) 20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21 But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. 22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.



If We Don't Press On

☞ the end of those things is death
Romans 6:21, NT p. 266

- Prior to being baptized into Christ...
 - slaves of sin
 - free from righteousness



- What fruit?
 - fun... doesn't last
 - money ... always need more
 - fame ... 15 minutes
- End of those things is death!



- Baptized
 - free from sin
 - SHAMED!
 - slaves of God
 - This is not a bad thing... we understand that He is master, we serve Him.
 - End:
 - sanctification (holiness) (contrast with shame)
 - eternal life.



- Philippians 3:17-21 (ESV) 17 Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. 18 For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. 20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.



- Enemies of the cross of Christ
 - End is destruction
 - god is their belly vs. transformed to glorious body (21)
 - glory in their shame vs. await a Savior (20)
 - mind set on earthly things vs. heavenly citizenship (20)



- Hebrews 6:4-8 (ESV) 4 For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt. 7 For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God. 8 But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned.
- Fallen Away
 - impossible to restore them to repentance
 - Christ:
 - crucifying again Son of God to their own harm
 - Holding Him up to contempt
 - bears thorns and thistles
 - worthless
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- If we don't press on, what will happen?
 - Children
 - Death
 - Destruction
 - Deceived
 - Burned

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

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Go On To Maturity (Consequences of Not Pressing On)

Hebrews 6:1

Synopsis: Understanding the elementary principles is just the beginning, we must be sure that we go on to maturity, pressing on, straining forward. The consequences are dire: we remain children, we are easily bewitched, our end is death, destruction and to be burned.

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"Let all that you do be done with love."