

---

## PRESSING ON

---

As we discovered yesterday, Paul counted his own righteousness a loss because it made him rely on himself and not on God. We also looked at the truth that our position in Christ comes from His righteousness and not our own. Experientially, we have the power of His resurrection, share in His sufferings and identify with His death.

Today we will look more at the experiential life of the believer, specifically our old sin nature and spiritual maturity. Let's look at our verses for today. Philippians 3:11-12 says,

“In order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also  
I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.”

When we look at verse eleven we see that Paul's desire is to “attain to the resurrection of the dead.” We saw yesterday in verse ten that as Christians, we experientially conform to Christ's death. The power of our old sin nature no longer rules over us, but since we continue on earth in the flesh, our old sin nature continues to attempt dominance over us. Today in verse eleven, Paul's statement that his desire was to “attain to the resurrection of the dead,” simply means that his desire was to become spiritually mature to the point that would compare to the resurrection of the dead. Why would this compare? At the resurrection of the dead we lose our old sin nature. **Read 1 Corinthians 15:50-57.** Our corruptible body puts on incorruptible. Paul's desire was to become spiritually mature to the point that his actions would be as though he had no sin nature. There would be no corruption in his life.

In verse twelve Paul expounds on his desire. He says, “not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect.” Paul makes sure that we understand that his desire in verse

eleven is not reality. He has not been perfected and we must realize this for ourselves as well. No matter what we do, the reality of incorruption on earth will never be realized. We should always strive to become more mature spiritually, but perfection will only occur at the resurrection of the dead.

**Look back on your life. Can you see a progression of spiritual maturity? When and how did it occur?**

In the next part of the verse Paul says that he is pressing on. Even though the reality of incorruption has not become his, he knows that he must continue to strive for spiritual maturity while on earth. He also says that he desires to press on so that he “may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.” The purpose of Christ’s life, death and resurrection was so we could choose in faith to accept his sacrifice on our behalf. We are made blameless and righteous because of our position in Christ. Paul is pressing on so that he will have the potential to achieve blamelessness and righteousness experientially while on earth.

I’m sure we agree that blamelessness and righteousness is the goal for our walk on earth, but why is it so hard!? Let’s take a quick look at our old sin nature according to Romans 7:14-25.

#### The Old Sin Nature

- 1) The Law is Spiritual, but man is influenced by the old sin nature. Read Romans 7:14
- 2) Even the best of our good intentions fail. Read Romans 7:15. It is our sin nature working its way out of us that performs those things which we wish we didn’t perform.

3) Our inability proves that the law is good. Read Romans 7:16. It isn't the law that is sinful, but us. The law is good because it does what it is designed to do, show our sin.

4) Sin originates from the old sin nature. Read Romans 7:17.

5) The old sin nature produces nothing good. Read Romans 7:18-20

6) There are two laws in operation.

a. The Mosaic Law: Romans 7:21-22

b. The old sin nature: Romans 7:23

7) We can have victory over the old sin nature through Christ. Romans 7:24-25

It is important for us to understand that the authority of our old sin nature was destroyed at Calvary. We are no longer enslaved to it, but often we allow it to control us. Let's remember that we don't have to give in to its enslavement. For each temptation, God has given us a way of escape.

**Read and write 1 Corinthians 10:13. Have you ever experienced God's perfect "way of escape?" If so, write about it here.**

**End today by thanking God for the promise and provision in 1 Corinthians 10:13.**

REVIEW

~ Our desire should be towards spiritual maturity. We will not reach perfection in this life, but through the power of the Holy Spirit we should strive for it. 1 Corinthians 15:50-57

~ The only power the old sin nature has in our lives is that which we give it. Romans 7:14-25

~ We have a way of escape crafted for us by God! 1 Corinthians 10:13