

BECOMING FOCUSED—PART 1

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IN THE “GROWING FORWARD” SERIES:

January 4: *Becoming Confident*

January 11: *Becoming Like Christ*

January 18: *Becoming Free*

February 1: *Becoming Focused—Part 1*

February 8: *Becoming Focused—Part 2*

February 15: *Becoming Content*

GOD DOESN'T WANT YOU TO BE THE SAME PERSON YOU ARE TODAY AT THE END OF 2026.

Philippians 3:12–21 (NLT) (12) 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. (13) 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, (14) I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us. (15) Let all who are spiritually mature agree on these things. If you disagree on some point, I believe God will make it plain to you. (16) But we must hold on to the progress we have already made. (17) Dear brothers and sisters, pattern your lives after mine, and learn from those who follow our example. (18) For I have told you often before, and I say it again with tears in my eyes, that there are many whose conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross of Christ. (19) They are headed for destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful things, and they think only about this life here on earth. (20) But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. (21) He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.

1) It is important for us to remember the path to becoming like Jesus is a _____.

Philippians 3:12 (NLT) (12) 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.

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOUR POSITION BEFORE GOD AND YOUR PRACTICE IN DAILY LIFE.

Romans 5:1 (NLT) (1) Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.

Philippians 1:6 (NLT) (6) And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

2) We need to _____.

Philippians 3:13 (NLT) (13) 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,

1 John 1:9 (NLT) (9) But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

Psalms 103:8–12 (NLT) (8) The LORD is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. (9) He will not constantly accuse us, nor remain angry forever. (10) He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve. (11) For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth. (12) He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west.

Hebrews 8:12 (NLT) (12) And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins."

ARE YOU LETTING YOUR PAST FAILURES DEFINE YOU AND PARALYZE YOU FROM BECOMING THE PERSON GOD WANTS YOU TO BECOME?

3) Moving forward _____.

Philippians 3:13b–14 (NLT) (13) I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and **looking forward to what lies ahead, (14) I press on to reach the end of the race** and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

YOU WILL NOT BECOME LIKE JESUS AND BECOME THE PERSON GOD WANTS YOU TO BECOME WITHOUT EFFORT ON YOUR PART.

Philippians 2:12B–13 (NLT)Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. (13) For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

4) Keep your eye on the _____.

Philippians 3:14 (NLT) (14) 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 3:21 (NLT) (21) He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.

THE DAY JESUS TAKES OUR WEAK MORTAL BODIES AND CHANGES THEM INTO GLORIOUS BODIES LIKE HIS OWN WILL BE THE BEST DAY EVER!!

Romans 8:18 (NLT) (18) Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later.

BECOMING LIKE JESUS AND BECOMING THE PERSON GOD CREATED YOU TO BECOME IS WORTH THE EFFORT!

For more information about what it means to begin a relationship with Jesus or what to do after making a decision to follow Him, stop at Guest Central in the lobby following the service, email us at info@otterbeinchurch.org, or call the church office at 717.762.7147 to set up an appointment. You may also learn more about what it means to follow Jesus and/or request materials and find additional information to help you on your spiritual journey by clicking "**Next Steps > Jesus**" on