

# Looking Forward

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## Philippians 3:13-14

<sup>13</sup>Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.



We can become \_\_\_\_\_ when we are living in the past.

If you want God to do something off the \_\_\_\_\_ you have to take your hands off the controls.

Remember \_\_\_\_\_ you are.

What is in your \_\_\_\_\_?

Your past does not have to \_\_\_\_\_ you.

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# Looking Ahead

## Philippians 3:13-14

Do you desire to see God at work in your life but struggle to see your desire becoming a reality? Then consider this, some of the superstars in the Bible also struggled in this area. Let's see what we can learn from their experiences.

**Paul** 1 Timothy 1:15-16, 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

Paul overcomes a difficult past, as well as a very present thorn in the flesh. He is able to move forward when he puts these into the proper perspective. How do you allow your past to limit you? How do you allow the difficulties and limitations in your life to impact your work for Christ?

**Peter** Matthew 16:13-28, Acts 4:5-12

Peter has a strong mind and a courageous voice; but in his early years, his strong ideas often run counter to God's will and God's timing. Are you willing to allow God to work His will in your life according to His timing?

**Moses** Exodus 2:11-15, Exodus 3:1 thru 4:17

As a result of Moses' past experience, he is quick to make excuses when God calls him to go back to Egypt. How do you allow your own physical or mental limitations to impact your service to God? How can you see past your limitations to God's great provision?

**Abraham and Sarah** Genesis 15:1-6, Genesis 16:1-16

Abraham demonstrates great faith when he believes God will make him a great nation even though he has no children of his own. But Abraham and Sarah get impatient waiting for God's perfect timing. Have you grown impatient waiting on God? What are the promises that inspire you to wait for His timing?

**Esther** Esther 2:5-7, Esther 3:1 thru 6:12

Esther is an insignificant orphan who becomes a queen, and God has a divine purpose in her position of power. However, God's purpose requires a fearful choice. Do you feel like you are insignificant or unworthy for what God has called you to do? Where do you find courage and strength when God invites you to join Him in His work?