

**Going Deeper in God: How to Get Past Being a Superficial Christian  
Philippians 3:12-16**

- 1. Don't *EVER* think that you have arrived (Verse 12a)**
  - a. This will always lead to complacency/laxness/judgmentalism
  - b. Discipleship is a LIFELONG process (Galatians 6:9; 2 Timothy 4:7)
  - c. There are no shortcuts to spiritual growth (John 12:23-25)
- 2. Recognize that the growth comes from God (Verse 12a)**
  - a. Completion/Perfection is *perfect passive* i.e. it is God who sets the goal and God who guides from the beginning to the end (Phil 1:6; Genesis 17:5; Jeremiah 1:4,5; Isaiah 43:1,2)
  - b. It is God who sets the conditions for completion/growth (James 1:2-4; Romans 5:3-5)
  - c. It is God who gives the increase for spiritual growth (1 Cor 3:7; 2 Peter 1:3; Ephesians 1:18)
- 3. Recognize that spiritual growth requires the *personal* pursuit of God (verse 12b)**
  - a. Dioko = pursue vigorously
  - b. It is a two-way street (I pursue) [Psalm 42:1,2; Psalm 119:11)
  - c. Pursuit is intentional [that I *might* take hold of]
  - d. Christ pursued FIRST [that for which I have been taken hold of BY Christ] (See John 6:44; Jeremiah 31:3)
- 4. Recognize that spiritual growth involves loss (verse 13)**
  - a. Note emphasis again on not having arrived yet
  - b. Forgetting requires focus on what God has called us to (Verse 13b)- note ONE thing
  - c. Forgetting is a constant/continuous action (Galatians 6:14; Luke 9:62)- note BEHIND
  - d. Forgetting is contrasted with focusing on what is BEFORE us (Ephesians 1:11; 1 Peter 2:9)
- 5. Recognize that spiritual growth is not a cakewalk but a struggle (Verse 14)**
  - a. PRESSING i.e. exerting energy (Mark 8:34; 1 Corinthians 15:58)
  - b. The struggle is directional/intentional

- c. The struggle takes us closer to God (Phil 3:8-10; John 17:3; Ephesians 4:13)
- 6. Recognize that this is a personal process first and corporate second (Verses 15,16)**
- a. Paul is using his OWN life as an example (I, me, my)
  - b. Paul does not neglect the fact that we cannot walk this walk alone