

The Pursuit!
May 07, 2023
Pastor Jerry Harris

Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him. (Philippians 2:12, 13) NLT

Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it to safeguard your faith. Watch out for those dogs, those people who do evil, those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved. For we who worship by the Spirit of God are the ones who are truly circumcised. We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort, though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more! (Philippians 3:1 – 4) NLT

I want to share with you four actions steps of pursuit that Paul gives to the Philippians. if taken, that will lead to

the changes God wants to make.

Action step #1 -

Recognize you are a work in progress!

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. (Philippians 1:6) NLT

Four ways to cooperate with God:

· Give in to God

James 4:7 says, “So give yourself humbly to God.” Let God be God in your life. Give Him control. We put Him in charge. We quit trying to run our own lives.

· Get wise to Satan

James goes on to say, “resist the devil.”

· Grow closer to God

James 4:8 says, And when you draw close to God, God will draw close to you. TLB

· Go and ask for forgiveness

James 4:9 says, Let there be tears for the wrong things you have done. Let there be sorrow and sincere grief. If

you want to change, the only way you’re going to change is to be humble, and the only way to be humble is to go and ask forgiveness.

Action step #2 –

Keep focused on the goal!

So let's keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us. (Philippians 3:15) The Message

You shall be holy to me, for I the Lord am holy, and I have set you apart from all other peoples to be mine. (Leviticus 20:26) TLB

And we...are being transformed into his likeness... (2 Corinthians 3:18) NIV

Action step #3 –

Admit your weaknesses!

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. (Philippians 3:21) NLT

Since, then, we do not have the excuse of ignorance, everything—and I do mean everything—connected with that old way of life has to go. It's rotten through and through. Get rid of it! (Ephesians 4:22) The Message

A man who refuses to admit his mistakes can never be successful. But if he confesses and forsakes them, he gets another chance. (Proverbs 28:13) TLB

Action step #4 –

Pursue Christ!

I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. (Philippians 3:10) NLT

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you... (Acts 1:8) NIV

I will pour out my Spirit on all people. (Joel 2:18) NKJV

Three essential to being filled with the Holy Spirit:

1. I must realize the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is a gift!

You shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38) NASB

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God. (Ephesians 2:8) NASB

Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38) NIV

2. I must have a sincere desire for God!

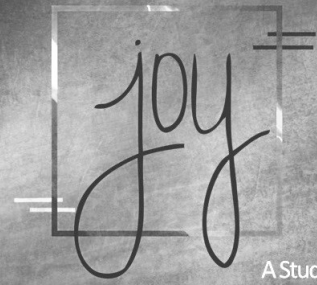
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled. (Matthew 5:6) NKJV

If you seek Him, He will be found by you... (1 Chronicles 28:9) NKJV

3. I must come humbly to God!

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor. (James 4:10) NLT

NOTES



A Study of Philippians

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