

EMBRACING THE NEW

LESSON 1 – Leaving the Past Behind

Ephesians 3:20 TPT

Never doubt God's mighty power to work in you and accomplish all this. He will achieve infinitely more than your greatest request, your most unbelievable dream, and exceed your wildest imagination! He will out do them all, for his miraculous power constantly energizes you.

I. How to leave the past behind —

Philippians 3:13–14 NIV

Brothers and sisters, I don't consider that I have taken hold of it yet. But here is the one thing I do. I forget what is behind me. I push hard toward what is ahead of me. [14] I push myself forward toward the goal to win the prize. God has appointed me to win it. The heavenly prize is Christ Jesus himself.

A. Forgetting those things which are behind (in the past). NEW MINDSET

B. Reaching forward to those things which are ahead (in the future).
NEW VISION, DREAMS

C. Pressing toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. NEW ASSIGNMENT

II. Four biblical steps to leave the past behind:

A. Confess and forsake sins & mistakes of the past —

Proverbs 28:13 TLB

A man who refuses to admit his mistakes can never be successful. But if he confesses and forsakes them, he gets another chance.

B. Receive forgiveness from the Lord that comes from confessing sin —

Hebrews 8:12 TLB

And I will be merciful to them in their wrongdoings, and I will remember their sins no more."

Psalms 103:12 TLB

He has removed our sins as far away from us as the east is from the west.

Isaiah 43:25 TLB

I, yes, I alone am he who blots away your sins for my own sake and will never think of them again.

C. Forgive yourself and get rid of condemnation

Romans 8:1,34 ERV

So now anyone who is in Christ Jesus is not judged guilty. [34] Who can say that God's people are guilty? No one! Christ Jesus died for us, but that is not all. He was also raised from death. And now he is at God's right side, speaking to him for us.

1 John 1:9 ERV

But if we confess our sins, God will forgive us. We can trust God to do this. He always does what is right. He will make us clean from all the wrong things we have done.

D. Forgive others. It is a decision to forgive –

Ephesians 4:32 TLB

Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God has forgiven you because you belong to Christ.

III. How to press toward the goal:

A. Believe God has something good for you

1 Corinthians 2:9a TLB

...no mere man has ever seen, heard, or even imagined what wonderful things God has ready for those who love the Lord.

Psalm 27:13 TLB

I am expecting the Lord to rescue me again, so that once again I will see his goodness to me here in the land of the living.

QUESTION: ARE YOU EXPECTING TO RECEIVE THE GOODNESS OF GOD NOW OR DO YOU FEEL UNWORTHY TO RECEIVE ANYTHING GOOD FROM GOD?

B. Encourage yourself – speak the Word of God

Acts 20:32 TLB

"And now I entrust you to God and his care and to his **WONDERFUL WORDS** that are able to build your faith and give you all the inheritance of those who are set apart for himself.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 TLB

So encourage each other to build each other up, just as you are already doing.

C. **TIME TO DREAM AGAIN**– Get the goals and directions of God clearly in your mind –

TIME TO STIR UP THE CREATIVE GREATNESS IN YOUR HEART

QUESTION: WHAT DO YOU REALLY SEE (YOUR DREAMS, A VISION TO MAKE A LASTING IMPACT ON YOU & OTHERS. ALL GODLY DREAMS & VISIONS WILL IMPACT OTHERS NOT ONLY YOU).

Jeremiah 1:11–12 AMP

The word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Jeremiah, what do you see?" And I said, "I see the branch of an almond tree." [12] Then the LORD said to me, "You have seen well, for I am [actively] watching over My word to fulfill it."

QUESTION: ARE YOU SEEING LIKE GOD IS REALLY SHOWING YOU OR ARE YOU SEEING BASED ON YOUR PAST LIMITATIONS?

POWER POINT- GOD WILL FULFILL HIS WORD IN YOUR LIFE. IT WILL NOT HAPPEN OVERNIGHT BUT IT WILL COME TO PAST.

Proverbs 21:5 TPT

Brilliant ideas pay off and bring you prosperity, but making hasty, impatient decisions will only lead to financial loss.

D. START DOING SOMETHING DIFFERENT THAT WILL HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON YOUR DREAM.

YOU GOT TO CHANGE THE ACTIONS YOU ARE SOWING TO GET DIFFERENT RESULTS. Whatever ACTIONS you sow WILL produce a harvest. Whatever you sow you will reap –

CONNECT AND FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHER CREATIVE THINKERS

Proverbs 13:20 ERV

Be friends with those who are wise, and you will become wise.

E. Be diligent, stay with it, don't give up

Galatians 6:9 AMP

Let us not grow weary or become discouraged in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap, if we do not give in.

Proverbs 13:4 TLB

Lazy people want much but get little, while the diligent are prospering.

Discussion Questions

1. Is there something in your past hindering you from really moving forward to do something that is really in your heart? (stopped going after your dream, settled for something not what you really desired, felt UNWORTHY)
2. Have you been able to forgive yourself as well as others from sins in your past? ARE YOU REALLY READY TO MOVE FORWARD?
3. Explain how you are pressing toward your new dreams, vision & goals