Forward Faith: Time to Move Forward

Welcome to Week 1 – Union Summer Groups!
Icebreaker 1 – What are you looking forward to this summer? Personal, Vacation, In Group? Icebreaker 2 – Where is your favorite summer activity? Favorite vacation spot?

Philippians 3:12 - 16  Not that I have already grasped it all or have already become perfect, but I press on if I may also take hold of that for which I was even taken hold of by Christ Jesus. 13 Brothers and sisters, I do not regard myself as having taken hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Therefore, all who are mature, let’s have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that to you as well; 16 however, let’s keep living by that same standard to which we have attained (NASB).

This week, we welcomed Guest Pastor, Pastor Daniel Floyd from Lifepoint Church in Fredericksburg, VA. In this impactful message, Pastor Daniel challenged our faith and encouraged us to stop playing it safe. You can find the message at https://theunionchurch.com/sermons/

- Faith was defined as evidence and substance. OR a type of action that produces enough evidence in the Believers life.
  - Q – What does that definition mean to you?
  - Q – What “actions” produce “faith” evidence?
• **In the opening verse, Paul identified a few critical actions to keep us from languishing.**

  Languishing is going through the motions of normal life without much excitement or enjoyment. It is a “meh” feeling. Languishing will cause us not to believe the promises of God.

  • Q – Why do you think languishing become predominant in our society today?

• **Firstly, Paul encourages us to FORGET what lies behind.**

  • Forgetting, the opposite of remembering. Biblical remembering is defined as digging up something from your past and bringing it unto your present so that it has a potency in your current reality.

  • Q – What would be some reasons to remember? Read Deuteronomy 8:18.

• **In order to move forward, we need “spiritual amnesia” so we won’t look back. Spiritual amnesia will help us to forget past failures and past success.**

  • Q – How does forgetting past failures help us move forward?

  • Q – In what ways can remembering past successes keep us from moving forward?

• **Secondly, Paul encourages us to PRESS towards the goal**

  • There isn’t pressing without resistance and God utilizes resistance to grow us.

  • Q - What does resistance look like in the life of a Believer? How has resistance showed up in your life?

  • Q - Why do we “rebuke” or fight resistance when it could be the thing God is using to grow us?

  • Q – What are ways we can stay full of faith during seasons of resistance?

**Takeaways:**

• God utilizes resistance to grow us. God sees the road ahead and knows the resistance level we need to press pass and towards our destiny.

• Every time we press past resistance, we get stronger. We are pressed for a purpose.

• Don’t remember your past mistakes and past successes because they will impact your faith.

**Prayer Requests**

• Ask your group members to share any prayer requests they have.

• Pray and close out your group. In the closeout prayer, ask the Lord that there will be a renewed press in our spirit and a faith that is unwavering.

**Reminders**

• Don’t forget to take attendance & share this week’s announcements!

• Upcoming Events: Baptism is THIS Sunday, June 12. Those interested can register online, [https://theunionchurch.com/baptisms/](https://theunionchurch.com/baptisms/)