

Lay Hold of Your High Calling

Sunday Morning, August 21, 2016



Last week we learned what it meant to be “sanctified” for Jesus. Like Olympians who have devoted their lives to achieve the high honor to represent their country in world competition at the Olympics, we as Christians also have a “high calling” in life not found in this world, but one found in Christ Jesus our Lord!

According to **(Philippians 3:12)** & **(Hebrews 12:2a)**, for us to lay hold of this “high calling” of Christ for our lives, we must make a continuous effort as we keep our eyes on Him.

Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith,

The Apostle Paul admits that he has not attained all that God has for him. He also admits that he continues to pursue maturity in Christ.

To lay hold of what God has planned for our lives is the most exciting adventure any Christian can experience, because we experience Him!

Finding the “high calling” God intends for us requires us to hold on to what He reveals to us each step of the way.

We must hold on to the truth of His Word and follow the course He has for us.

One thing that is absolutely necessary to discovering the “high calling” of God on your life is to forget and let go of the things you are ashamed of in your past.

Holding on to the past sin will paralyze us and disable us from pursuing the “high calling” God intends for our lives.

If I were to hold on to the darkest chapter of my life, the sin or injustice, small or great, I would be overcome with guilt, shame and anger, hindering my walk with Jesus. Therefore, we must let go of sin in order to experience the “high calling” of what God has chosen for us!

(Philippians 3:13)

Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,

Remember, the Apostle Paul was a murderer and considered himself the chief of sinners.

Do you think the Apostle Paul would have been used of God as God intended for Him, if he held on to the grief and shame of his past? So too we must let go of the past in order to press on to the “high calling” of God in our lives!

Discovering the “high calling” of God on our lives involves, letting go of past sin by accepting God’s forgiveness & stretching or pressing forward to the “prize”.



Sprinter Shaunae Miller dove across the finish line and won the Gold Medal this week at the Olympics in Rio. Some feel that

diving across the finish line is not really the way a runner should win. No matter what your opinion, she proved that she was determined to do what it took to win. She had her eyes on the finish line and made sure she made it there first. You might say she did the ultimate stretching to reach the goal.

(Philippians 3:14)

I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

We must compete against sin and strive for the “high calling” of the life God intends for us.

Jack Hayford, Chancellor of Kings University said, “Wrapped up in the word “press” (dioko) is the idea of pressure. Occurring three times in Philippians 3:4-14, “dioko” intermittently describes “to follow,” “to pursue,” “to persecute,” or “to flee,” suggesting impassioned pursuit. Paul says that he follows after Christ in strong pursuit, but he also describes how, in his former life, he persecuted the church with zeal. There is an element of violence, urgency, and desperation implied here—one that we can adapt for ourselves...”

We must press toward the goal or have that impassioned pursuit of it.

(Colossians 3: 1 – 2) tells us how we press toward the goal of our “high calling.

1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

As with athletes, the mind is a vital component to winning. A body can appear to be in shape and ready to win, but if their mind is else where they will not win. Swimmer Ryan Lochte after losing one of his races in Rio stated that his mind wasn’t in it.

We, too, must set our minds on the things of God, His purposes, His ways, or we will not lay hold of our “high calling”.

(Hebrews 3:1) tells us

Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus,

We need to be partakers of the heavenly calling. We do that by acknowledging and sharing with others what Jesus has done for us!

Stretch forward to the life God has for you, reaching diligently for the prize of heaven’s rewards, and in doing so, you will have found the “high calling” of God for your life!