

Hallelujah Anyway, Part 13

Pastor Steve Berger August 2, 2015

Reminder

Reminder — *the New Testament was lived and written in an atmosphere of Christians being the persecuted minority. God's word is to be heard, believed and obeyed in the most adverse of spiritual climates!*

- **context of the book of Philippians** —
 - **Hallelujah Anyway...** having a faith that no matter what happens in your life, you continue to trust and praise God, knowing that God, and no circumstance, has the final word over you!
- **context of Philippians, chapter 3** —
 - Paul counts his past as loss and rubbish to gain Christ, Paul wants to know the power of Christ's resurrection, and he wants to know the fellowship of Christ's suffering... Paul wants everything Jesus has for him... Paul has a healthy and holy fear that doesn't want to miss out on anything Jesus has for him!
- **Philippians 3:12-19**
 - 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. 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, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind. Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.

Principles start with the “Have Not’s”

Powerful principles that will help us pursue Jesus intentionally and aggressively, so that we don't miss out on anything He has for us, so that we enter heaven having fulfilled our destiny here on earth!

- **I have not attained**
 - received, taken, experienced everything God has for me
 - I know there's MORE
- **I have been perfected**
 - not completely finished, haven't experienced the totality of God's transforming grace on my life
 - I know there's MORE to be had of God
- **I have not apprehended**
 - eagerly taken, seized or possessed my ultimate destiny
 - I know I am still not fulfilled — He has MORE for me

**How we finish life in Jesus — is as much a part of our destiny as how we start life in Jesus!
Finish well! There's MORE! We have not yet attained, been perfected, or apprehended!**

Things that try to keep me from MORE

- **becoming satisfied with past spiritual accomplishments**
 - wallowing in how far I've come will actually keep me from where God wants to take me
 - past success can lead to current complacency
 - A.W. Tozer wrote, "Complacency is a deadly foe of all spiritual growth. Acute desire must be present or there will be no manifestation of Christ to His people."¹
 - complacency ruins our spiritual, relational and professional lives
 - "complacency" must become "*come play since He*" calls us to MORE!
- **experiencing MORE means greater challenges**
 - MORE causes us to be stretched and trust God in uncomfortable situations
 - that's challenging, easier to settle for what you've already accomplished

We can become like Israel coming out of Egypt and into the Promise Land.

- **Deuteronomy 1:3-8**
 - Now it came to pass in the fortieth year, in the eleventh month, on the first day of the month, that Moses spoke to the children of Israel according to all that the LORD had given him as commandments to them, after he had killed Sihon king of the Amorites, who dwelt in Heshbon, and Og king of Bashan, who dwelt at Ashtaroth in Edrei. On this side of the Jordan in the land of Moab, Moses began to explain this law, saying, "The LORD our God spoke to us in Horeb, saying: 'You have dwelt long enough at this mountain. Turn and take your journey, and go to the mountains of the Amorites, to all the neighboring places in the plain, in the mountains and in the lowland, in the South and on the seacoast, to the land of the Canaanites and to Lebanon, as far as the great river, the River Euphrates. See, I have set the land before you; go in and possess the land which the LORD swore to your fathers—to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—to give to them and their descendants after them.'
 - three months from Egypt to Sinai, Horeb, STAYED A YEAR... lead to another 39 years of complacent wandering, instead of conquering possession
 - "You've dwelt here long enough, turn, take journey, see what I have for you, possess it."

Question — *What kept them wandering wastefully where they were?*

Answer — *The challenges of the Promise Land, giants, armies, territory, resettling etc.*

- *"oh that we had just stayed in Egypt"*
- *Reuben, Gad, half of Manasseh stayed on east side of Jordan*

**Complacency over yesterday's accomplishments
and the greater challenges of today's Promise Land
keep many a saint on the east side of the Jordan!
Unfulfilled destiny — not experiencing everything Jesus has for them.**

¹A. W. Tozer, *The Pursuit of God*. (Wildside Press LLC, 2013),12

What Paul intentionally and aggressively did

What Paul — intentionally and aggressively did do to experience everything Jesus had for him, and to fulfill his destiny

- **I'm pressing on — verse 12**
 - fleeing after, persecuting, hunting... intentional, aggressive!
 - Verse 14 — goal, prize, upward call of God... "well done good and faithful"
- **I'm laying hold — verse 12**
 - taking eagerly, seizing, the very thing Jesus seized me for, DESTINY!
 - Yes, Jesus eagerly seized you for destiny, purpose, greatness, testimony!
- **I'm forgetting the past — verse 13**
 - good past that contributes to complacency
 - bad past that contributes to paralyzing shame!
- **I'm reaching forward — verse 13**
 - stretching, straining, yearning, I know there's MORE!
 - I know haven't attained, been perfected, or apprehended everything there is
- **I'm thinking right — verse 15**
 - have this mind, this attitude, about these things
 - I'm NOT going to think my destiny is going to be fulfilled by being unintentional and lazy
 - I know I've got to be intentional and aggressive, just like Jesus, Paul and the rest.
- **I'm walking orderly — verse 16**
 - march in military step, in rank, walk orderly, intentional, deliberate, purposeful
 - no wandering aimlessly, no unintentional meandering
- **I'm following the successful — verse 17**
 - following, imitating them as they imitate the life of Jesus
 - watching, learning, observing, asking, reading, obeying the lives of successful spiritual people

I have no intention of following those who are actually enemies of the cross, whose end is destruction, whose god is their own belly, flesh, carnal appetites, whose glory is in shameful things, who set their mind on earthly things!

These are the principals that lead us to experiencing everything Jesus has for us and fulfilling our destiny. Fulfillment doesn't happen apart from these attitudes and actions — it just doesn't.

The kingdom of heaven suffers violence—and violent ones try to overtake it

There are two interpretations, equally valid —

- **Matthew 11:12**

And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.
- **there's demonic, violent opposition to the Kingdom of God**
 - and they try to overtake, overcome it.
- **there's a holy, violent, aggressive attitude to have if you're going to experience the Kingdom in your life**
 - the Kingdom won't be apprehended by the passive, there is too much violent opposition in their way
 - violent ones take it by force

The second interpretation is true — because the first one is.

**Don't hate spiritual exercise,
get intentional, get aggressive, get violent, get forceful,
take the Kingdom and let it take you,
then you'll experience everything Jesus has for you
and fulfill your destiny!**

Discussion Questions

The Sermon Discussion Questions are being provided to the Life Groups by Jimmy Harris, Life Group Pastor. If you are not in a Life Group and would like to receive copies of the Sermon Discussion Questions, please contact Pastor Jimmy: jimmy@gracechapel.net.

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Please come join our House of Prayer, Tuesday, August 4th at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.**