

Intro: Quote fm John H. Vincent
Read Article

QUESTION: How do you become one of the 8%?

And especially, how do you do that in the area of your spiritual life?

In Phil 3 the Apostle Paul is writing about how HE was able to go forward spiritually, and some of the goals that he had.

Phil 3:12-21

Pg 832

3 Steps To Moving Forward Spiritually In 2018

1. Have A Holy Discontent With The Present.

Vs 12

The first thing we have to do is to not be satisfied with where we are spiritually

“Holy Discontent” = *A deep frustration with the spiritual status quo which fuels the fire of change in your life*

Illus: Popeye the Sailor: “*That’s all I can stands, I can’t stands no more!*”

If we aren’t careful we can become complacent about our spiritual life. Look at what Paul said! He is a great model!

2 Things Paul Says He is NOT!

~Not yet obtained: Like Jesus. *I don’t hold my goal in my hand yet! I’m on the track to be like him, but not yet!*

~Not yet perfect: Not Mature! *I have not yet reached spiritual maturity! Not yet what God made me to be*

4 Attributes Paul Says He Desires

It is ALL about Jesus! Paul is a Jesus Man! (Gain: Vs 8) Gain Him: Lit = *Increasing fellowship with Him*

~Know Him: Be in personal experiential relationship with Him; understand, comprehend (Unsearchable riches)

~Power of His Resurrection: The power of God at work in his daily life (Unhindered Resource)

~Fellowship of Suffering: Walk with him in sacrificial service. Lay down life (Unselfish Living)

~Resurrection fm dead: Eternal life! (Not just THEN, but NOW!) QUALITY (Unlimited living!)

Applic: Paul is saying...Look at what is available to us when we are walking with Jesus!

- Unsearchable riches of experiencing God more and more Unhindered Power that raised Jesus from dead
- Unselfish living...being like Jesus in impacting others Unlimited life...Life lived to the fullest!

Paul says: I don’t have that yet...but I want it! I get glimpses of it from time to time

But, What I see and what I taste and what I experience is so wonderful...so good...I’ll throw everything away to get it!

I am dissatisfied with what I have he says...Only wrote 2/3 of NT, Spread the Gospel throughout known world!

Met Jesus face to face...Walked in the presence of kings and emperors...Not yet done...Change the world!

That’s what we need to have...a Holy Discontent...

Illus: Fellowship Of The Unashamed

2. Develop A Healthy Memory Loss For The Past!

Vs 7; 13

Now, normally memory loss is a bad thing. And I understand that. I’m not in any way making light of that.

But, I do want you to notice what Paul says about the Past in these two verses.

- Vs 7: Consider loss: Lit = *Something that is on the debit side of the accounting ledger: Not Asset....Loss!*
All those things in my past that I used to say were important
(4-6) All those things that I used to consider Spiritual Credits...Have been moved over!
I now understand...I brought nothing of value to the Lord...Nothing to brag about!
Is 64:6 “*all our righteous acts are like filthy rags!*”
- Vs 13: Forgetting: Lit = *to lose out of the mind! To neglect To forget!*
Listen Paul says, Everything that has come before...I’m putting it out of my mind!
This is a healthy memory loss! Paul is telling us. I am laser focused on what God is doing
I want you to notice here that this forgetfulness is two-fold.
He is getting rid not just of the bad...but of the “good as well!”

Two Things We Have To Lay Down To Pursue God Whole-Heartedly!

1. **Sin:** There are things in all of our lives that we need to lay down, to give up, to leave behind
Sometimes we get complacent and allow those things that we struggle with to stay
We give ourselves the excuse. “That’s just the way I am.” Yes...but it’s not the way God wants you to stay!
Here is what the bible says: 1 Jn 1:9

“*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*”

How Do We Confess

- a. Sit quietly and prayerfully before God
- b. Read a passage that lists things God wants us to leave behind
- c. Prayerfully ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes: Write each one down
- d. Pray through the list...specifically bringing each sin to God asking for forgiveness
- e. Thank Him for what Jesus did on the cross...paying for your sin

APPLIC: Come tonight and we will have the opportunity to do that...together 9-12

2. **Success:** Sometimes what holds us back spiritually will be GOOD things and not bad!
We can be so focused on patting ourselves on the back and looking behind that we don't look ahead
Nothing wrong with enjoying the good...but can't LIVE there! Move on!

a. Celebrate the success! We don't typically do enough of that!
We should take the opportunity to get together and say...good job!
Volunteer Sunday: Saturday, Feb 3rd! Every Volunteer
We will provide a meal (NOT PIZZA or Subs) CELEBRATE!
Sunday Morning Jan 28th: Mission Reveal

b. Commemorate in a way that lets you enjoy and move forward!
Illus: Joshua 4: 12 Stones from River Bed: Build Memorial: Joshua and Jordan:
Where there is a great spiritual success: Put a marker down: My office is full of them!
~Coin ~Communion Cup ~Rocks
Then...Move On! Our God is a God of the Future!

Applic: You can move forward when you do those two things. Then the successes and failures are dealt with,
Put in their place...Forgotten when you should forget and celebrated when its appropriate!

3. Find Real Help For The Future.

Vs 17

Know what One of the keys to success...one of the things that everyone says makes you part of the 8% is?

Don't Go It Alone! Find someone that will help, Encourage, and Hold you accountable

Vs 17 Join with others: Lit = be followers together! Find those that are walking the right way...Go with them

3 Ways You Need To Do That

Join with others in...

a. Ministry: Find a place of service (Parents...Esp for your kids to see you doing that) teach them
b. Bible Study: Find a place of Study: (Amazing classes) Get in there...More than study by the way
Prayer...Fellowship...Encouragement

c. Accountability: Find someone that will help you "stick to it" (I have a trainer)
One of my best friends...said...You aren't taking care of yourself
So they told me to go...and paid for it for a YEAR!
Now...I continue to go...Because they ask me if I am
I go...hate going...but it keeps me from the hospital
I see all the benefits of Going...and I know the dangers of not going!
I have a "Holy Discontent" with the hospital
And I have people to HELP ME ALONG THE WAY

CONCL:

My hope and prayer for you is to have a GREAT NEW YEAR

I WANT YOU to be one of the 8% that gets to the end of 2018 and says...What an AWESOME Spiritual Year

In order for that to happen you need to finish this one off right...and Get Ready!

- Have a Holy Discontent with the present: I am not going to stay HERE
- Develop a Healthy Memory Loss for Past Both success and failure
- Find Help for the Future you want! (Show me your friends...I'll show you your future!)

Perhaps there is something you need do spiritually to finish off the year.

Sin Need to Confess
Person you need to pray for
Decision you need to make
Action you need to take

Not too late...