

February 14th Phil Pringle    MOMENTUM

*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. Philippians 3:12-14 NKJV*

In the pursuit of the C3 vision, we cannot simply create big churches and events, we must grow big people too. When we keep moving forward, by taking the next step, we grow, we stretch, we bear fruit. The Christian life is not a stroll, a sit, a run or a leap but a “walk”: taking one step after another. When you intend to move forward, momentum is sacred and we can’t let it die. Most of an aeroplane’s fuel is burned up just getting the plane off the ground. Once in the air, it has momentum and things keep flowing more easily. Likewise, if we lose our momentum it takes a lot of energy to get moving again.

Paul had momentum but at the time of writing to the Philippians he had seemingly become stuck. He was in a Roman prison next to the palace. Paul who was sent to preach the gospel to kings was chained between two guards day and night. But Paul had momentum so he refused to stop. He wrote letters to the believers and converted the guards.

When Paul talks in this passage of attainment he is referring to the olympics games where the first runner in a race, seized a wreath and took it to the supervisor, who would crown the winner with it at a ceremony later. While we are here on earth, we have not yet “attained” because our supervisor has not declared the race over. We continue to grow and learn our whole lives and need to keep our momentum.

Paul gives us three instructions:

1. Press on. Decide to keep moving to the things that are ahead. Press means applying pressure, implying that there will be opposing forces like opposition, discouragement and disappointment. If you stop you become like a car bogged in soft sand and a great deal of effort will only produce a tiny result. Pressing on involves continual choices and commitment with momentum compounding the impact of each step in your life. Over time you build traction that can take on any difficult terrain in your life.
2. Fulfil the call God has on your life. God created us with unique abilities to do things no one else can do. We all have a purpose and a destiny. You might think you are too old or that you aren’t sure what your calling is but a big part of reaching your destiny is continual obedience to God. Keep going and think big.
3. Focus on the priority because we aren’t there yet. None of us waiting for heaven can feel like we’ve arrived but we get so distracted and lose momentum. Distractions slow us down so declutter your world.

Something to talk about:

At the beginning of 2016 do you feel you have momentum or that you are just spinning your wheels?

What is your next step?

How have you seen momentum play a part in making you a bigger person?