

DON'T STOP.....PRESS ON

By: Dr. Hal Webb, Evangelist

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Phil. 3:13&14.

In this wonderful verse Paul is writing to Timothy and to the church which follows. with clear instructions. Look at the verse carefully. **Not yet apprehended:** We all have so much to learn and to do, and our work on earth is not yet over. He has much more blessing and opportunity for us if we will look ahead, and go after it. For none of us living is finished yet, but His Spirit wants to lead us in more for His glory. **One thing I do:** Notice the singleness of purpose mentioned here as the goal of the writer, and for us as well. There are so many things we can do, but the one thing that most pleases God should be in the forefront of our daily life. **Forgetting:** Sometimes I think we remember all the bad and defeating things that have happened to us. Past faults, failures, mistakes, and sins, should be confessed and put aside, because of Gods' past forgiveness. Don't smolder in the ashes of past failure, but move into future accomplishments. Not thinking "what if" but "what's next." Since God can forgive and forget, so can we turn our gaze from the past to the future. **Reaching:** It's like the reach of a child to a higher shelf with great desire to obtain the best things His grace holds for us. Join the hymn writer who wrote "Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer blessed Lord, To thy precious bleeding side." Desire more and more of spiritual things as you move forward in your life of service. **Press:** We need to drive forward with vision of what God has planned

for us in the last days ahead. Great and valuable assets are waiting for those of us who will pay the price, and push after them. God is far from finished with you yet. There are many other opportunities and victories ahead. Get out of whatever easy chair you are in and go for all the Lord plans for your life. Come on, press for higher goals in a life totally pleasing to God. That word press is a good one of great value. Since it is spelled press I want to use each letter to explain and bring forth attributes of success. **(1). P is for Perseverance:** *"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."* I Cor. 15:58. When I think of this I remember the exercise and training that led to the sports in High School that I participated in. It took a lot of push on the part of our coaches, and we were not allowed to give up. If we failed, we were allowed to rest a moment, and then try it again, and again, until we achieved the goal and did our very best. Sometimes our words sound good, but our actions don't show true. Like the boy writing his girl a love note. Here is what she read. "I would climb the highest mountain to come to your presence." "I would swim the deepest ocean to get to your charms." "I would fight through an army to be in your arms." The note closed, "I will be over to see you Sunday night, if it doesn't rain." Ha! Not very convincing. Many times we Christians are like that note. Dr. Bob Jones, my mentor, used to say from the pulpit, "The test of your character is what it takes to stop you." I once read in a hunting magazine that when a wolverine spots his prey he never leaves its trail until he kills it. Nothing will distract him and he never will give up till the meal is his. In these last days from our pastors all the way through deacons, trustees. and members, we need to persevere and never give up. The Bible tells us the conclusion to our battles, so we must stand our ground, and never give up. The

victory is ours, promises the Lord. When are doing the will of God, refuse to turn aside, and accomplish His will in, and through you. "Remember you and God are a majority." **The R in the word press Stands For Respect:** *"And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves."* I Thess 5:12 & 13. Be sure to love, obey, respect, trust, listen to, use kindly, and support your pastor in every way. For your parents, be sure to obey them, love them, and follow their faith. Teachers are likewise to be obeyed. with their rules accepted, and submission to their lessons. When it comes to the law remember they are higher powers ordained by God. Wife, support your husband as the leader of the family. Respect of others is very high on the desirable list for Godly believers. Most of all, God, and I will be your God who said, *"Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people; and walk in all the ways I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you."* Jer. 7:23. **The E Represents Energy:** *"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily as to the Lord and not unto men."* Col. 3:23. Every successful athlete works endlessly to reach goals that will make him tops in his sport. Mark Spitz and Eric Heyden are examples of athletes of lifetime abounding energy. Everywhere there is a shortage of laborers in the service of the Lord. Others seem to tire easily and fail to press on when the going gets rough. Some never set goals and laugh about never reaching them. We, as believers, must give our very best as servants of the Lord above. No one ever said the Christian life would be easy. You know we belong at all Sunday services in our church, and attending prayer meeting is not an option, but a Godly requirement. At 84, with a bad heart, I will still do all I can to cap off my lifetime of faithful evangelistic service. Oh please, dear friend, stay busy in the work and

responsibilities God has given you. To wear out is far better than to rust out. It may take you longer to get up, but stay up and be a daily example of a totally sold out believer, who with eagerness presses toward your very best. **S Is For Study:** *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."* II Tim. 2:15. The Word of God is a book of no limits. You will never soak it all in, and run out of new things to discover. It is a light to your path, a road map to your journey, food for your thoughts, and wisdom for your instruction. Once I heard a girl say "if brains were germs my boy friend would sure be sanitary." Ha! I have seen plenty of those. A book in your pillowcase will never result in true osmosis. To become a student of the Bible, you must give it a lifetime of good page by page study habits. If you are a school age student never scoff at "A" students, but become one of them. Dear ole' Dr. Bob Jones Sr. used to tell us students, "Its a sin to do less than your best." We all need to do our best and dig deeply day by day in God's book for the riches buried there. The best idea is to turn off the "idiot" box, your TV, and spend quality time in the book of books, the Bible. **The Last S Is For Spirit:** *"Not slothful in business,; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;"* Rom. 12:11. We must have constant interest in spiritual things as His Spirit fills and leads us along our way. This won't just happen, but must be your heart and soul's desire. Gal. 5:16 orders us to *"This I say then, Walk in the spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."* Gal. 5:16. Learn to lean on His Spirit to reveal Bible truth, to snuggle with you in prayer, to give strength in witness, to guide you in labors, and to love and attend faithfully your church. **P** is for perseverance, without which you will fail. **R** is for respect, as you journey down life's trail. **E** is for energy, it keeps you on the go. **S** is for study, by now you surely know, Another **S** is for Spirit to illuminate within. Press on!