

Principles of Progress

RIVERS & ROADS

*Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it?
I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. ~ Isaiah 43:18-19*

PASTOR BRYAN HUDSON, D.Min

Philippians 3:12

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

Isaiah 43:18-19

Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness And rivers in the desert.

- ~ Press on
- ~ Lay hold
- ~ Forget things behind
- ~ Reach for things ahead
- ~ Press toward the goal
- ~ Roads and rivers await (Isaiah 43:18-19)

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.”

— Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities

Some people can find satisfaction and comfort by looking at their present status, possessions, finances, and circumstances.

Other people must find satisfaction and comfort by looking beyond their present status, possessions, finances, and circumstances.

**Reaching forward in attaining your purpose
has its own reward.**

“It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds;

“Who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.” ~ Theodore Roosevelt (1910)

Three Keys of Principles of Progress:

POWER

PERSPECTIVE

PRIZE

Paul reminded us about **POWER** = “...*That I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me...*”

You were designed by God to possess everything he designed for you to have.

Possessing is for purpose, not only for enjoyment

Paul gave us a **PERSPECTIVE** = *I am not perfected, but I press on.*

Don't focus on what you cannot do. Focus on what you can do. Also a principle of good mental health.

Limitation is a gift. Prevents wasting energy on things that are not for you

Paul revealed a **PRIZE**

“The upward (or high) call of God in Christ.”

Your ultimate goal.

A motivation that lifts you above every lesser thing.

We don't want to get hindered by
self-imposed limitations.

Determine to move straight ahead. Beware of situations or relationships that coerce you to not run "straight ahead."

Philippians 3:14 *So I run straight toward the goal in order to win the prize, which is God's call through Christ Jesus to the life above.* (Good News Translation)

“Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness And rivers in the desert. ~ Isaiah 43:18-19

God does the amazing and the impossible!

“Roads & Rivers” are created for you. Roads in the wilderness and rivers in the desert speak of seemingly impossible things.

A place is a wilderness because it has no roads. A place is a desert because it has no water.

Seeing new things requires shifting focus from former things.

Moving forward and upward requires both natural and supernatural intervention.

Let me suggest:

Roads speak of the natural—things you need to do.

Rivers speak of supernatural — things only God can do.

THREE BLESSINGS

1. PEACE *"Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old."*

Let the past stay in the past.

THREE BLESSINGS

2. PURPOSE *"Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it?"*

Why it is essential to look forward and press forward?

Things that “spring up” can only do so at a future time. The seed you have planted can only emerge in the future. If you look back you will miss it.

THREE BLESSINGS

3. PROVISION *"I will even make a road in the wilderness And rivers in the desert."*

God can do the impossible for you.

God will pave a road through your wilderness.

He will provide a river through your desert ...provision in a dry place.

Principles of Progress Worksheet

1. What are things behind (in the past) that you need to leave behind?
2. Why did Jesus “apprehend” you? What does He want from your life?
3. Have you become complacent in your provision/achievement?

Principles of Progress Worksheet

4. Have you become desperate in your lack of provision/achievement?

5. What motivates you to “press on” and “reach forward”?

6. What is your POWER?

7. What is your PERSPECTIVE?

8. What is your PRIZE?