

PROCLAIMING TRUTH MINISTRIES
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In life, we all have a past. Memories of our childhood, decisions, and experiences have shaped who we are today. It can be tempting to dwell on the good and bad past and let it consume our thoughts and actions. However, as Christians, we are called to leave the past in the past and focus on the road that God has blessed in front of us.

The Bible tells us in Philippians 3:13-14, "Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." This verse reminds us that we should not let our past hold us back from moving forward in our journey with God. Instead, we should focus on the future He has planned for us.

So, how can we truly leave the past behind and focus on the road God has blessed in front of us? Here are three ways, with explanation and scripture support, to help us do just that:

1. Surrender to God and trust in His plan. One of the first steps to focusing on the future is surrendering our past to God. This means acknowledging that the past is out of our control and trusting that God has a plan for our future. In Jeremiah 29:11, God says, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." We must remember that God is in control and has a perfect plan for our lives, even if we can't see it in the present.

2. Forgive yourself and others. Holding onto grudges and past mistakes only hinders our ability to move forward. We must learn to forgive ourselves for what we have done and forgive others for the hurt they caused us. Colossians 3:13 says, "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Forgiveness is a powerful tool that allows us to let go of the past and focus on the future without the weight of bitterness and resentment.

3. Focus on the present and the future. Often, we miss out on opportunities and blessings in the present because we are too focused on the past. We must learn to let go of what has happened and be fully present in the here and now. Philippians 4:8 says, "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." By focusing on the positive aspects of the present and trusting in God's future, we can move forward with hope and joy.

As Christians, we are called to leave the past in the past and focus on the road that God has blessed in front of us. By surrendering to God, forgiving ourselves and others, and concentrating on the present and the future, we can let go of the past and fully embrace the future God has planned for us. Let us remember the wise words of Isaiah 43:18-19, "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." Let us trust God's plan for our lives, looking forward to the future with hope and excitement.