PRESSING ON

*. . . I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 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.*

Philippians 2:12-14

I believe that God made me for a purpose, in the way he makes everyone for a purpose. By submitting to his will, I allowed myself to be soft clay in his hands helping me develop the gifts I could use to best serve him, as I believe he gives everyone gifts with which they can serve.

The beautiful thing is that he made each of us unique. Not one of us is like another. What motivates you differs from what motivates me. We all have some kind of inborn talents. We bring hearts that were developed in accordance with our heredity, our life experiences, our sensitivity, and our relationship with God.

It’s amazing how many things come into play when God leads us to the role he has for us to play! Whether God gives us big jobs or small jobs, they all have equal worth. All are important to serve the needs in the world.

God took hold of me when I read a statement by Dr. John Varsamis, M.D. saying, “Mental illness is so common that if even a small proportion of the patients made a special effort to learn as much as they could about their illness, and if they proceeded to educate their families and friends, there would not be too many uninformed people left and the stigma associated with mental illness would be virtually eradicated.”

That statement lit a flame inside me—a flame that would not be extinguished but grew steadily to give me the fire I needed to address injustices I saw in the world. God willing, I will continue to do so as long as I’m able.

If we will let God—if we obey his leading—take hold of us to serve him, in whatever way he has gifted us. Then we can say, along with Paul, “*I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.”*

*“Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead.”*

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