

A. M. SERMON NOTES
10/25/2026

FOUR-FOLD FORMULA FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

(Philippians 3:12-14) "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."

1. "I HAVE NOT OBTAINED"

This is the apostle Paul talking. I'm asking, "Paul, how can you be dissatisfied?" I'm thinking, "Paul, you are a splendid Christian, you can't possibly be dissatisfied." "I think you have arrived."

If you are satisfied with your past and present performance, you have pretty much eliminated the possibility of doing better.

Paul's "maturity" was shown in his recognition of his "immaturity."

2. "ONE THING I DO"

Paul now presents "singleness of purpose" in all that he does.

(1 Corinthians 11:1) "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ."
(Galatians 2:20) "I have been crucified with Christ, it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me, and the life that I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me."

It's the requirement of priority in our Christian living. First things first!

3. "FORGETTING THE THINGS WHICH ARE BEHIND"

Concerning spiritual growth, believe sins are forgiven, and do not allow past wrongs to hinder your spiritual progress.

Paul had a wrongful past (Acts 9:1-2); yet, this "chief of sinners" said "I obtained mercy" (1 Timothy 1:15-16).

4. "REACHING FORWARD ... I PRESS ON TOWARD THE GOAL"

"Reaching ... I press" - stretch toward; extend; exert;
"triumph" is "try" with "umph" behind it.

"Obstacles are what you see when you take your eyes off the goal."