

**AGAPE HOUSE OF WORSHIP
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY**

Topic: SOAP Bible Study Method
Texts: Philippians 3:12-16

Wednesday October 4, 2023
Facilitator: Pastor Bimbola Lawore

Introduction:

The book of Philippians was written by Apostle Paul to the believers at Philippi, a prosperous Roman colony. The main theme of Paul's letter is to encourage the Christians at Philippi to live joyfully in every circumstance.

Paul started his letter to the Philippians brothers and sisters by encouraging them to rejoice in the Lord always. *"Further, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you".* **Philippians 3:1 (NIV)**

Being joyful is vital for us as believers to make it to the end. As we go through life, we may not always experience happy moments, but we must be full of Joy. Joy is a fruit of the Spirit. Joy is not dependent on the circumstance around you; it is coming from the Holy Spirit. It is what gives you peace, serenity and contentment no matter what you are going through. **This joy comes from knowing Christ personally and depending on His strength rather than your own.**

In today's bible study, we will do a study of Philippians 3:12-21 using the SOAP Bible Study Method.

S- Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

P - Prayer

SCRIPTURE: Read a short bible passage out loud or write it out.

Philippians 3:12-16 ¹² *Not that I have already obtained it [this goal of being Christlike] or have already been made perfect, **but I actively press on** ¹³ *so that I may take hold of that [perfection] for which Christ Jesus took hold of me and made me His own.* ¹⁴ *Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have made it my own yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the [heavenly] prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.* ¹⁵ *All of us who are mature [pursuing spiritual perfection] should have this attitude. And if in any respect you have a different attitude, that too God will make clear to you.* ¹⁶ *Only let us stay true to what we have already attained. (AMP)**

Philippians 3:12-16 ¹²⁻¹⁴ *I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. **But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me.** Friends don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back.* ¹⁵⁻¹⁶ ***So let's keep focused on that goal,** those of us who want everything God has for us. If any of you have something else in mind, something less than total commitment, God will clear your blurred vision—you'll see it yet! Now that we're on the right track, let's stay on it. (MSG)*

OBSERVATION:

- ⇒ **What do you notice about the verse?**
- ⇒ **What do you think the main message is?**
- ⇒ **What verses, words or ideas jump out to you?**

APPLICATION: Ask God how he wants you to apply the verse to your own life

One clear application from the text is that we must actively pursue knowing Jesus Christ, it is not just one time experience, it is a daily walk of yielding to him, knowing him and becoming like him.

Philippians 3:12 *“Not that I have already obtained it [this goal of being Christlike] or have already been made perfect, **but I actively press on** ^{also} so that I may take hold of that [perfection] for which Christ Jesus took hold of me and made me His own”*

How can we actively press on or reach out for Christ?

1. Having a consistent spiritual habit such as praying, fasting, studying the scriptures. **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Joshua 1:8**
2. Having healthy relationships. Have accountability partners, have godly people you do life with. **Ecclesiastes 4:9, Proverbs 11:14**
3. Serving the body of Christ with your gifts and talents. **Romans 12:11**
4. Being part of a healthy spiritual community for example, Agape House offers many life and small group communities where you can plug in to have a healthy spiritual community. **Proverbs 27:17**
 - CTC: Church in the community
 - POTTERS HOUSE: Children’s Ministry
 - AWANA: A bible study and scripture memorization group for children
 - OASIS: Young adult ministry ages 20s and 30s
 - YRU: Youth Ministry
 - FOCUS: College Ministry
 - KINGDOM AMBASSADOR: Men’s Ministry
 - WOP: Women’s Ministry
 - MMIC: Maturing Mothers In Christ
 - ZOE: Ministry for Pregnant moms and dads
 - FAITH CLINIC: a group for families
 - DAILY PRAY UNIT

PRAYER: Pray for yourself and for others based on the lessons from the passage.

- **Pray that you will make pursuit of knowing Christ more a priority. Philippians 3:12** *“Not that I have already obtained it [this goal of being Christlike] or have already been made perfect, but I actively press on ^{also} so that I may take hold of that [perfection] for which Christ Jesus took hold of me and made me His own.” (AMP)*
- **Pray that you will have the right motivation towards your spiritual maturity, always focused on growing and developing, not giving excuses, not dwelling on mistakes of the past. Philippians 3:13-14** *“Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have made it my own yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the [heavenly] prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” (AMP)*
- **Pray that you will maintain the right attitude by keeping your focus on Jesus as you navigate the rest of this year 2023. Philippians 3:15** *“All of us who are mature [pursuing spiritual perfection] should have this attitude. And if in any respect you have a different attitude, that too God will make clear to you.” (AMP)*