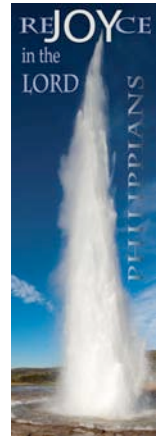


**ReJOYce in the Lord**  
Life Group Questions – November 13, 2011  
**Pastor Jeff – (Philippians 3:12-16)**



## **Connect**

1. Even if you're not a sports fan, what is your favorite sport to watch & why?

## **Study**

1. Read Philippians 3:12-16. Paul uses the analogy of a runner in a race. Even if you're not an athlete, how does Paul's analogy help you, as you live the Christian life? Would you say the Christian life is more like a 50-yard dash or a marathon?

2. What's the 17-word phrase in Philippians 3:12-16 Jeff asked us to recite & remember this week? Take time to say it aloud together (reminder: it's found in the first gray box).

3. For the last year and a half, we've said, "*We believe God is calling us a church to declare war on shallow Christianity, beginning with ourselves.*" And Philippians 3:12-16 is very helpful for us because it describes how mature Christians view life. In the message notes, Jeff gives 3 things mature Christians do. Which one was most helpful for you, and why?

4. The first thing mature Christians do is: "*confess they haven't arrived or yet been made perfect.*" Does this surprise you? Do you agree? What happens to our desire to keep growing when we think we've arrived or we become satisfied with where we are or how far we've come?

5. Describe what you believe is the goal of the Christian life. Is it personal perfection on this side of heaven? Or is it to know Christ in every moment and every thing we face? Explain.

6. The second thing mature Christians do is: "*press on knowing Jesus took hold of them for a purpose.*" Paul never forgot when Christ took hold of him. When did Christ take hold of you? How does remembering this encourage you to press on?

7. Jeff titled this week's message, "Pressing On," because Paul says "*I press on*" twice in this passage. Paul "presses on" in 3 ways as he runs his race with Christ—what are they? (Hint: in the message notes all 3 ways have the letter "f"). As you consider how you can move from shallow to mature in your race with Christ, which one of these 3 ways to "press on" do you think you need to practice more, and how will doing this help you?

8. The third thing mature Christians do is: "*finish strong with Christ to the finish line.*" Why did Paul yearn to finish well? How does it help us to reflect on how Christ finished (Heb 12:1-3)?

9. If you're willing, share the specific way (or ways) the LORD showed you that you need to "press on" or "lean forward" this week as you run the race with Christ.

10. Once more, would you recite aloud & together the 17-word phrase from Philippians 3:12?

## **Pray**

Consider taking time to pray aloud for the person to your right, saying something like this: "LORD, please help \_\_\_\_\_, as they learn to press on in this race with You."