

Daily Devotional by Dr. Gloria P. Holmes

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"Gateway to God's Glory in the Midst of the Coronavirus Pandemic"

"HARD PRESSED BUT PRESSING ON"

"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 3:13-14

My sisters and brothers, I know that during this coronavirus pandemic, we have all felt hard pressed at one time or another. Not only are we concerned about our own health and wellbeing, but we also care about what is happening to our family members, friends, church family, and even our world. The pressures of life surely come from many directions, and sometimes we can experience extraordinary pressures depending on the circumstances. At times like these, though it may be extremely difficult, we must strive to press on. I love these verses for today and quote them frequently to myself and to others. The King James version of Philippians 3:13-14 may be more familiar to you: *"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended, but this one thing I do: forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."* Yes, as believers in Christ, we each have a high calling, and we must be determined to **press on** to see what the end will be. **Press** means that we apply extreme physical force. For example, while we may not feel like going somewhere, when it is important, we go ahead anyway. Of course, we cannot do this in our own power; we must rely on the power of the Holy Spirit. In different moments of duress, I will call out very loudly: "Help me, Holy Ghost." I am so glad that He has truly helped me on so many occasions. Listen to Paul's encouraging words to believers in 2 Corinthians 4:7-9: *"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down but not destroyed."* Thus, we resolve not to give up because we are striving for a very high goal and we must press hard to reach it. The hymn writer called the goal "Higher Ground." *"I'm pressing on the upward way; new heights I'm gaining every day; still praying as I onward bound, Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."*

Prayer

My Dear Heavenly Father,
I come as humble as I know
how asking you to enable me
to press on. I love You and
want to reach the goal You
have set for my life. In the
name of Jesus, I pray. Amen!

How will you respond to today's message?
