

NOW THAT YOU
RECOGNIZE HIM!
PHILIPPIANS 3:10-14

**Moving From Recognition to
Relationship**

Are you living on someone else's testimony (Big Mama's faith, your spouse's faith), or do you have your own personal relationship with Christ?

DR. DARRYL T. CANADY
RODMAN STREET CHURCH 4.19.26

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Title: Now That You Recognize Him: Moving From Recognition to Relationship

Sermon Summary: This powerful message takes us on a transformative journey from mere recognition of Christ to genuine relationship with Him. Building on the Emmaus Road encounter where two disciples walked with Jesus without recognizing Him, we're challenged to move beyond momentary spiritual experiences into lifelong intimacy with God. The sermon explores Philippians 3:10-14, where Paul declares his passionate desire to truly know Christ—not just intellectually, but personally, powerfully, and even through suffering. We discover that recognition is just a moment, but relationship requires movement. It's not enough to have our eyes opened during worship or crisis; we must pursue Christ daily with intention.

The message unpacks four critical dimensions of spiritual growth: comprehension (moving from religion to relationship), construction (embracing that we're works in progress), concentration (maintaining focus despite distractions), and completion (persisting until we finish our God-given race). We're reminded that salvation happens instantly, but transformation is a lifelong process. God isn't looking for perfect people—He's looking for persistent people who will walk with Him through valleys and mountaintops alike. The challenge is clear: stop living on someone else's testimony and develop your own intimate knowledge of Christ through prayer, commitment, and daily communion with Him.

Chapters

Chapter 1: Comprehension: Moving from Recognition to Relationship

We must move beyond merely recognizing Jesus to developing a personal, intimate relationship with Him, knowing Him powerfully through the resurrection and passionately through His sufferings.

Chapter 2: Construction: Understanding We Are a Work in Progress

We are God's masterpiece under construction, saved instantly but transformed through a lifelong process that requires our participation and perseverance.

Chapter 3: Concentration: Fixing Our Focus to Finish the Race

We must maintain singular focus on Jesus, forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, because divided focus produces a defeated life.

Chapter 4: Completion: Finishing What God Started

God will finish what He started in us, and we must press on toward the goal with persistence, knowing that our race is not over because Christ lives.

Key Points:

- Recognition of Jesus is only the beginning; relationship with Him is the goal
- There is a difference between knowing about Jesus and truly knowing Him personally
- We must pursue Christ with the same power that raised Him from the dead working within us

- True relationship means walking with Jesus in both good times and hard times
- We are all "under construction" - God's masterpieces in progress
- Salvation is instant, but transformation is a process that requires our participation
- Growth requires us to forget what is behind and strain toward what is ahead
- A divided focus produces a defeated life; we must concentrate on one thing - knowing Christ
- We must liberate ourselves from past guilt, past glory, past grief, and past grudges
- The Christian life is a marathon, not a sprint, requiring persistence and endurance
- Finishing is rare, but with Christ, we can complete what God has started in us
- Pressure and trials are not enemies but part of the process of spiritual development

Scripture Reference:

- Philippians 3:10-14 (primary text)
- Matthew 11:28
- Ephesians 2:10
- Hebrews (references to running with endurance)
- Philippians 1:6 (He who began a good work will complete it)

Stories:

- The Road to Emmaus narrative (Luke 24) - two disciples walking with Jesus but not recognizing Him until He broke bread with them
- The woman who came to new members class, brought by Coach Jones when she was in high school, now returning with her own children
- The \$6 Million Man television show - Lee Majors being rebuilt, illustrating how God rebuilds us
- The preacher's personal football story about running with his head down versus keeping his eyes up to see opportunities and obstacles
- Peter walking on water - maintaining focus on Jesus versus looking at the wind and waves
- Biblical references to Adam, Noah, Moses, David, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, Jonah, and ultimately Jesus - all showing how "God worked it out"
- The energizer bunny illustration for the Holy Spirit's power to keep us going
- The hairdresser illustration - looking messy under construction but becoming a masterpiece when complete

Scripture References from the Sermon

Explicitly Mentioned Scripture References:

1. **Philippians 3:10-14** - Main text of the sermon (read and extensively discussed)
2. **Matthew 11:28** - "Come unto me, all ye that are heavy laden"
3. **Ephesians 2:10** - "We are God's workmanship/masterpiece"

4. **Philippians 1:6** - "He who began a good work in you will complete it" (paraphrased)
5. **Hebrews 12:1-2** - "Run with endurance" and "Consider Jesus"
6. **Psalm 121:1** - "I lift up my eyes to the hills from whence comes my help"
7. **2 Timothy 1:7** - "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind"
8. **Psalm 23:4** - "Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death"
9. **Isaiah 54:17** - "No weapon formed against me shall prosper"
10. **Deuteronomy 28:13** - "The head and not the tail"
11. **Deuteronomy 28:3, 6** - "Blessed in the city, blessed in the field, blessed coming and going"
12. **Psalm 37:4** - "Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart"
13. **John 16:33** - "In this world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world"

Alluded To (Without Direct Citation):

14. **Luke 24:13-35** - The Road to Emmaus story (referenced extensively from previous week's sermon)
15. **Matthew 14:22-33** - Peter walking on water
16. **Romans 8:28** - "God works it out" (theme throughout)
17. **Galatians 6:9** - "Don't grow weary in well doing"
18. **1 Corinthians 15** - Resurrection power theme

19. **2 Corinthians 12:9** - "My grace is sufficient"
20. **Psalms 37:25** - "I have been young and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken"

Biblical Stories Referenced:

21. **Genesis 3** - Adam's fall
22. **Genesis 6-9** - Noah and the ark
23. **Exodus 4:10** - Moses' stuttering
24. **1 Samuel 17** - David and Goliath (David fought)
25. **Daniel 6** - Daniel in the lion's den
26. **Daniel 3** - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace
27. **Jonah 1-2** - Jonah and the whale
28. **Matthew 27-28; Mark 15-16; Luke 23-24; John 19-20** - Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection

Songs Referenced (with Biblical basis):

29. **"Because He Lives"** - Based on resurrection theme (John 11:25; 1 Corinthians 15:20)
30. **"He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"** - Based on God's sovereignty theme
31. **"A Little Talk with Jesus"** - Based on prayer themes (Matthew 6:6; 1 Thessalonians 5:17)

This sermon is heavily rooted in Philippians 3:10-14 while drawing from numerous other scriptures to support the main themes of knowing Christ, spiritual growth, focus, and completion.

QUOTES:

Recognition is not the end. It's just the beginning. It's not enough for your eyes to be open. Your life has to be transformed because when you have a personal intimate encounter with God, your life would never be the same.

Recognition is a moment, but relationship is a movement. Recognition happens instantly, but relationship develops intentionally.

God is not looking for people who can recognize him in a moment. He's looking for people who will walk with him for a lifetime.

Grace saved you but growth requires you. Grace is what saved you, but you got to be involved to grow.

You are not who you used to be, but you are not yet who you are going to be. God ain't through with me yet.

You cannot move forward if you keep replaying what broke you. You can remember it but stop rehearsing it.

Whatever has your focus will have your future. If you can get your focus right, if you can let go what's behind, if you can reach toward what is ahead, then you will find yourself doing something powerful.

Starting is common but finishing is rare. Completion is not about perfection, it's just about persistence.

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5-Day Devotional: From Recognition to Relationship with Christ

Day 1: Moving Beyond Recognition

Reading: Philippians 3:10-14

Devotional: Many people recognize Jesus without truly knowing Him. Like the disciples on the Emmaus road, we can walk alongside Christ yet remain spiritually blind to His presence. Recognition is a moment, but relationship is a movement. Paul's passionate cry—"that I may know Him"—reveals the heart of authentic faith. Knowing about Jesus through theology and tradition isn't enough; God desires intimate communion with you. This week, ask yourself: Do I merely recognize Jesus in moments of crisis, or am I pursuing a daily, transforming relationship with Him? True faith moves beyond Sunday recognition to Monday-through-Saturday intimacy. Your spiritual journey begins not with information, but with intentional interaction with the living Christ.

Day 2: Under Construction—God's Unfinished Masterpiece

Reading: Ephesians 2:8-10; Philippians 1:6

Devotional: You are God's workmanship, His masterpiece in progress. Construction sites are messy—filled with noise, dust, and disorder before beauty emerges. Your spiritual life mirrors this process. Salvation happens instantly, but transformation unfolds over a lifetime. Paul, despite his incredible resume, declared, "I have not arrived yet." If the great apostle remained under construction, why should we expect perfection in ourselves? God is tearing down old habits, removing toxic relationships, and rebuilding your character. Don't mistake construction for destruction. The pressure you feel is producing something beautiful. The discomfort is developing you. Be patient with yourself—God isn't finished with you yet. He who began a good work in you will complete it.

Day 3: The Power of Focused Pursuit

Reading: Hebrews 12:1-3; Philippians 3:13-14

Devotional: "One thing I do," Paul declared—not ten things, not five, but one. Divided focus produces a defeated life. Many believers struggle not from lack of potential but from scattered attention. You cannot run forward while gripping your past. Liberation requires releasing past guilt, past glory, past grief, and past grudges. Like Peter walking on water, your stability depends on where you fix your eyes. When he focused on Jesus, the impossible became possible; when he focused on the storm, he sank. What has your focus will determine your future. Stop rehearsing what broke you and start reaching toward what God has prepared. Lift your eyes to Jesus, the author and finisher of your faith. Keep your head up, adjust to obstacles, and run your race with singular devotion.

Day 4: Pressing Through the Pain

Reading: Romans 8:18-28; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Devotional: Paul desired to know "the fellowship of His sufferings." Real relationship with Christ means walking with Him through valleys, not just celebrating on mountaintops. No cross, no crown. No death, no resurrection. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is available to you—not just for Sunday shouts, but for Monday strength, terrible Tuesdays, wicked Wednesdays, and frightening Fridays. God hasn't given you a spirit of fear but of power, love, and a sound mind. Pressure isn't your enemy; it's part of the process producing Christ-likeness in you. When life knocks you down, keep going and going like the Energizer Bunny powered by the Holy Spirit. Your present suffering cannot compare to the glory that will be revealed. God is working all things together for your good.

Day 5: Finishing What God Started

Reading: 2 Timothy 4:6-8; James 1:2-4

Devotional: Starting is common, but finishing is rare. Many begin their spiritual race with excitement but fail to cross the finish line. Paul declared, "I press on toward the goal to win the prize." This isn't a sprint but a marathon requiring persistence, not perfection. You may be tired, weary, and tempted to quit, but don't stop now. God didn't bring you this far to abandon you. Jesus endured betrayal, rejection, suffering, and the cross—but He didn't quit. Because He finished, you can finish too. Your race isn't over. Your story isn't complete. Your purpose is still alive. Keep running when people misunderstand you, when doors close, when money gets tight, when your body gets tired. Because He lives, you can face tomorrow. The prize awaiting you is eternal, not temporary. You're running for a crown, not applause. Press on—completion is within reach.

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Small Group Discussion Guide

"Now That You Recognize Him" - Philippians 3:10-14

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker (10 minutes)

Icebreaker Question: Share a time when you suddenly recognized or understood something about God that you had missed before. How did that change you?

Key Scripture

"I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead." - Philippians 3:10-11

Discussion Questions

Part 1: Comprehension - Moving from Recognition to Relationship (15 minutes)

1. **What's the difference between recognizing Jesus and knowing Jesus?** How does this show up in everyday life?
2. Pastor Canady said, "Recognition is a moment, but relationship is a movement." What does this mean to you? Where are you in your journey—still in the recognition phase or moving toward deeper relationship?
3. **Personal Reflection:** Are you living on someone else's testimony (Big Mama's faith, your spouse's faith), or do you have your own personal relationship with Christ? What would deepen that relationship?

4. Paul wanted to know Christ "personally, powerfully, and passionately." Which of these three dimensions do you need to grow in most right now?
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Part 2: Construction - You're a Work in Progress (15 minutes)

5. **Why is it important to remember that we're "under construction"?** How does this perspective help when we struggle with our imperfections?
 6. Pastor Canady said, "Grace saved you, but growth requires you." What does this mean practically? What role do we play in our spiritual growth?
 7. **Share an area where God is currently "constructing" you.** How does it feel? Messy? Uncomfortable? Hopeful?
 8. The sermon mentioned that construction is messy—there's tearing down before building up. Have you experienced God removing relationships, habits, or attitudes? How did you respond?
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Part 3: Concentration - Fixing Your Focus (15 minutes)

9. **Paul says "one thing I do"—not ten things, but ONE.** What distracts you most from focusing on Christ? (Past failures, other people's opinions, busyness, comparison, etc.)
10. **The four liberations mentioned were:**
 - Liberation from past **guilt**
 - Liberation from past **glory**
 - Liberation from past **grief**

- Liberation from past **grudges**

Which of these do you most need to experience? What's one step you can take this week toward that liberation?

11. **"Whatever has your focus will have your future."** What currently has most of your focus? Is it aligned with where God is calling you?
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Part 4: Completion - Finishing What God Started (10 minutes)

12. **Are you better at starting things or finishing things?** Why do you think finishing is harder than starting?
 13. Pastor Canady said, "You may be tired, but don't you dare quit." What encouragement does the group need to hear today about not giving up?
 14. **What "race" has God called you to run?** (This could be a calling, a ministry, a healing journey, a relationship to restore, etc.) What would it look like to press toward completion?
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Key Takeaways

✓ **Relationship over Religion:** Knowing Christ personally is more than church attendance or Bible knowledge—it's intimate, daily connection.

✓ **Growth is a Process:** We are all under construction. God isn't finished with any of us yet.

✓ **Focus Determines Future:** What we concentrate on shapes our direction. We must forget what's behind and strain toward what's ahead.

✓ **Keep Running:** Starting is common, but finishing is rare. Don't quit in the middle of your construction.

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge: Choose ONE action step:

1. **Deepen Your Relationship:** Commit to 10 minutes of daily prayer this week—not just asking for things, but talking with God and listening.
 2. **Embrace Construction:** Identify one area where God is working on you. Instead of resisting, pray, "God, complete this work in me."
 3. **Fix Your Focus:** Write down one thing from your past you need to release (guilt, glory, grief, or grudge). Pray over it and symbolically let it go.
 4. **Press Toward Completion:** Identify one thing God has called you to do that you've started but not finished. Take one concrete step toward completion this week.
 5. **Encourage Someone:** Reach out to someone who might be ready to quit and remind them that God isn't finished with them yet.
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Closing Reflection

Group Leader Reads:

"You cannot live off yesterday's victory and win today's race. You can remember your past, but stop rehearsing it. Keep your eyes on Jesus.

When you keep your eyes on Jesus, you can handle whatever comes your way."

Final Question: What is one thing God spoke to you through this sermon and discussion that you want to remember this week?

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Pray together:

- Thank God for not being finished with us yet
 - Ask for focus to keep our eyes on Jesus
 - Pray for strength to finish what God has started
 - Lift up specific needs shared during discussion
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Memory Verse for the Week: *"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

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How does the distinction between recognizing Jesus and truly knowing Him personally challenge the way you approach your relationship with God?
2. Paul speaks of wanting to know both the power of Christ's resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings. Why do you think both aspects are necessary for spiritual maturity?

3. The sermon emphasizes that we are works in progress under construction. In what areas of your life do you sense God is still actively working and shaping you?
4. What does it mean practically to forget what is behind and strain toward what is ahead, especially when past hurts or failures continue to impact your present?
5. How can we distinguish between living on someone else's testimony versus developing our own intimate relationship with Christ?
6. The disciples on the road to Emmaus had their hearts burning before their eyes were opened. Have you experienced feeling God's presence spiritually before fully understanding it mentally?
7. What distractions or past burdens are preventing you from maintaining focus on the race God has set before you?
8. The sermon states that grace saved you but growth requires you. How do we balance trusting God's grace while taking personal responsibility for our spiritual development?
9. Why do you think so many believers start their spiritual journey strong but struggle to finish well, and what can we do to persevere?
10. How does keeping your eyes fixed on Jesus during trials and difficulties differ from relying on your own strength or understanding?