

WEEK OF JANUARY 7, 2018 - FURTHER UP AND FURTHER IN, PART II

1. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

2. Philippians 3:12 describes the goal of pressing on, and verses 13 and 14 give instruction on what to do to accomplish this regarding the past, present, and the future. What are those instructions, and which is the hardest for you? Why?

3. Read John 15:1-4. Vitality in Christian life comes from Christ. How (and how often) are you being fed by Him?

4. Pastor Ben talked about "living in the gaps" between spiritual things. How much of this process ought to be physically lived out, compared to an emotional experience?

5. Is it easiest for you to live with an eternal perspective always in mind or to live daily in the presence of God? Why do you think that is true?

6. Are there spiritually "neutral" things, or is the choice always between doing something which actively moves you closer to God and doing something which actively moves you away from Him?

7. In 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 we are told to rejoice always, to pray without ceasing, and to give thanks in all circumstances. How literally should Christians take these instructions?

8. What lessons about how to balance the physical and the spiritual can we learn from the life of Christ? Use verses to support your answer.

9. The great puritan pastor Jonathan Edwards lived by a set of resolutions which guided his Christian life (find them online at desiringgod.org/articles/the-resolutions-of-jonathan-edwards). As you start the new year, what resolutions have you made for your own Christian maturity?

If you have been struggling in one of the following areas, challenge yourself to memorize the corresponding passage of Scripture over the next week:

- Joyless Philippians 4:4
- Jealous Proverbs 14:30
- Lustful 2 Timothy 2:22
- Angry Ephesians 4:26-27
- Fearful Isaiah 41:10
- Undisciplined Hebrews 12:11
- Unforgiving Ephesians 4:32
- Tongue Ephesians 4:29
- Lying Ephesians 4:25
- Impatience Romans 12:12
- Addictions 1 Corinthians 10:13
- Obsessive Philippians 4:8
- Anxious Philippians 4:6-7
- Doubt Proverbs 3:5-6
- Bitterness Ephesians 4:31-32
- Contentment Psalm 37:3-5
- Depression Matthew 11:28
- Faithlessness Psalm 91:1-2
- Gossip Psalm 141:3
- Laziness Colossians 3:23