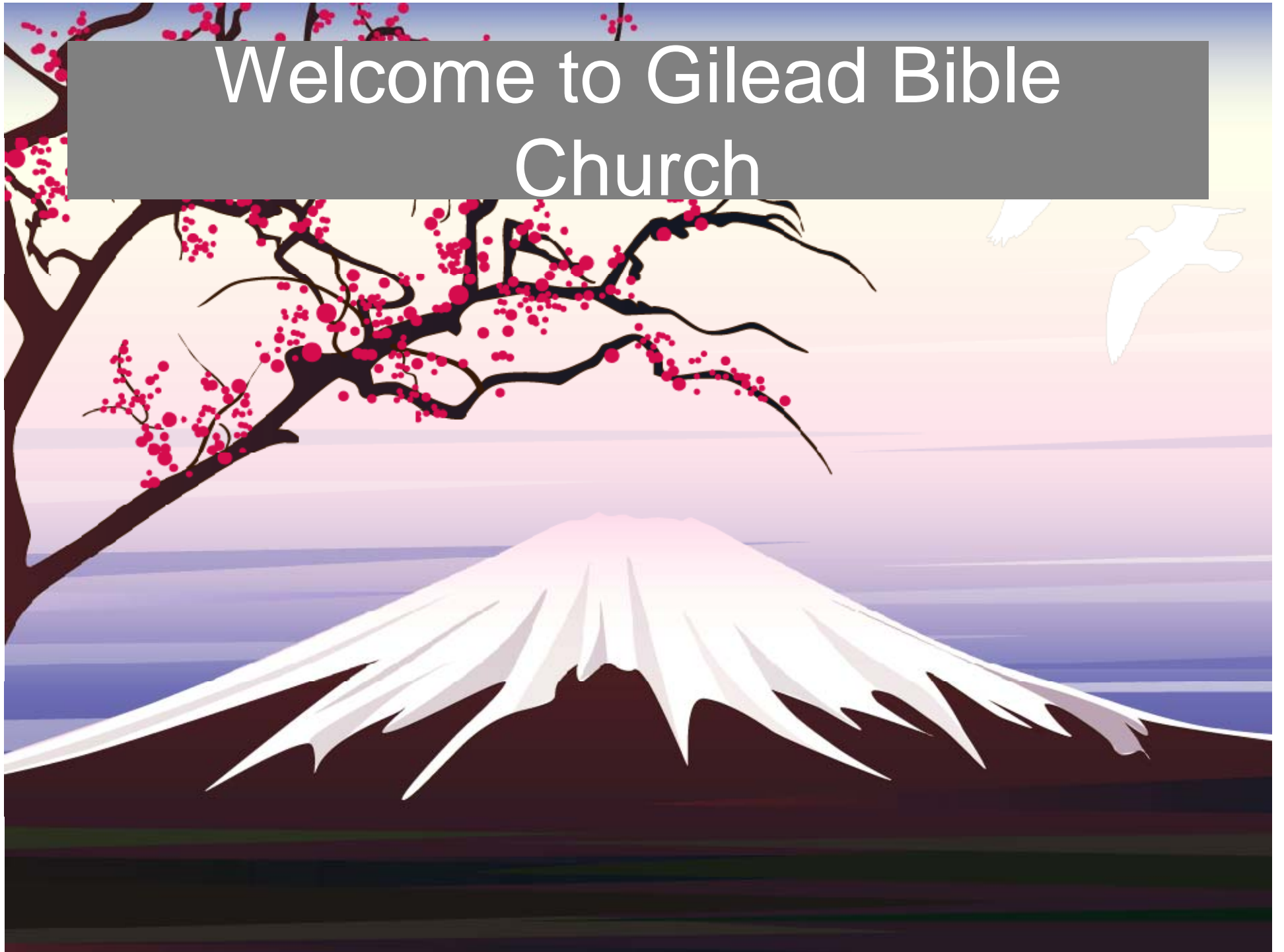


# Welcome to Gilead Bible Church





www.bible.ca

# Looking Back, Planning Ahead

Phil. 3:12-13

## Phil. 3:12-13

- “Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, 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.”





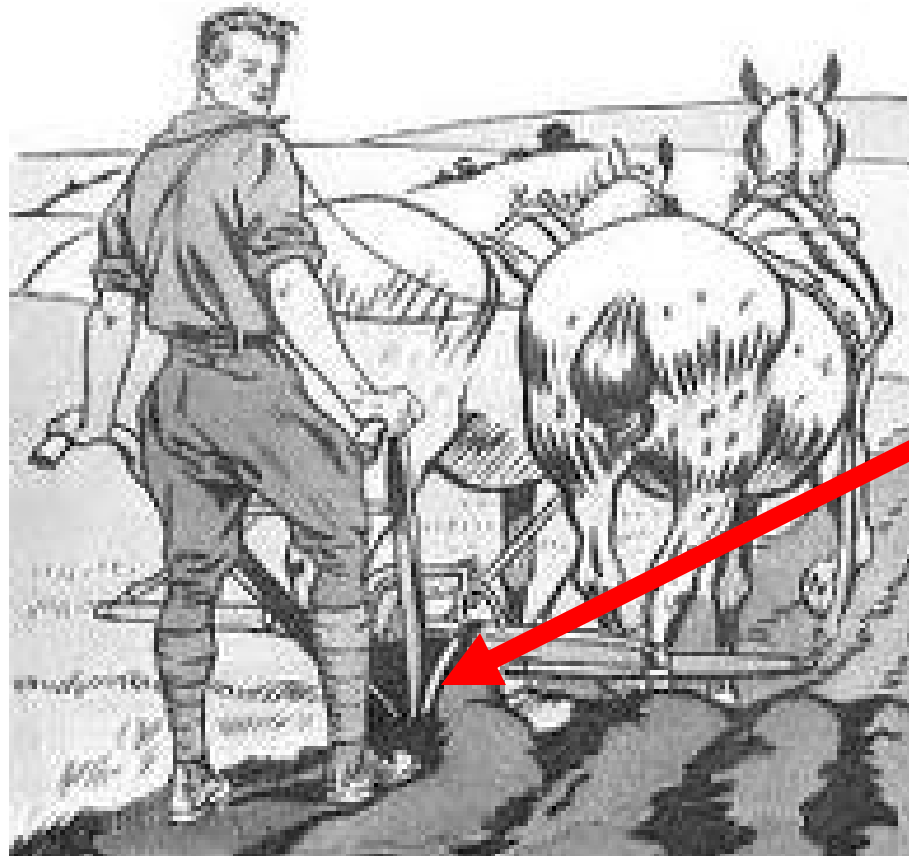




# I. Looking Back

- Jesus talked with a man who wanted to break his commitment to God.
- Luke 9:61-62 records the conversation,
- "Another man said `I will follow you, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home.'
- But Jesus replied 'No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.'

When you plow a field by hand, you must **not** look behind you or else you will create a zig zag in the furrow. This man was already following Jesus.





# Why you can't Look Back



- His hand was already on the plow of the kingdom, but ***he looked back to his former life before he became a Christian.***
- Notice that the man didn't say he wanted to quit following Jesus forever, only that he wanted to quit long enough to say goodbye to his family

# The Israelites looked to Egypt



# The Israelites looked to Egypt

- **Num 11:4** The rabble with them began to crave other food, and again the Israelites started wailing and said, "If only we had meat to eat!
- **Num 11:5** We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost—also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic.
- **Num 11:6** But now we have *lost our appetite*; we never see anything but this manna!"

# Why you can't Look Back



- Paul wrote in Philippians, “But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead.”



# Why you can't Look Back

Paul said, "We should forget those things that are behind."

He wasn't talking about people. He was talking about certain events in our lives.

To make progress in the future we can't linger too long in the past.



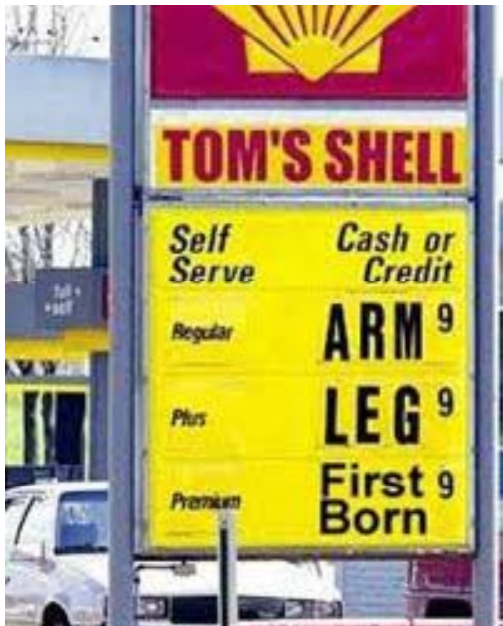
# Reticular Activating System

- Behavioral scientists have discovered that we usually see things that we are prepared to see, and that this is all centered in a network of nerve cells called the "Reticular Activating System." And everybody here today has a ***"Reticular Activating System."***

# Reticular Activating System



- It works like this: Once something has been brought to your attention and you have been prepared to see it, you will see it virtually everywhere you go.





# Why you can't Look Back

- Sometimes our bad past hinders our present lives.
- There may be some bad things in our past that have never been paid for and may never be paid, cleaned up, cleared up, straightened out, etc., but still we have to go forward. ***We must forget about them and get on with our lives***





# Why you can't Look Back

- The phrase, "forgetting those things which are behind".
- *The New Living Translation* says: "No, dear brothers and sisters, I am still not all I should be, but I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: **Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead.**"

# Life Instructions

Life Instructions			
			
Have fun	Do not hurt people	Do not accept defeat	Strive to be happy



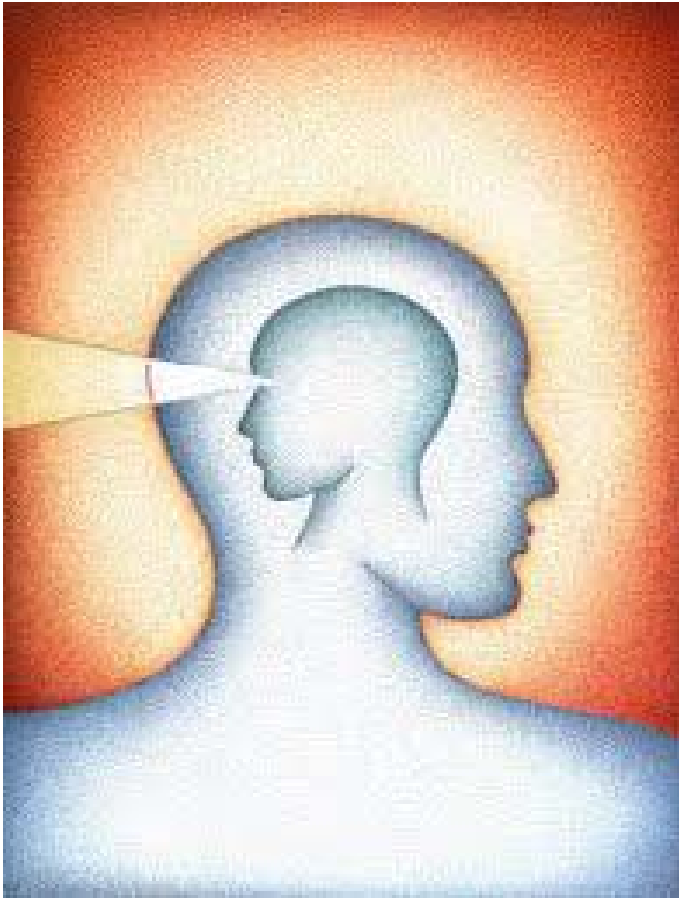
# Why you can't Look Back

- We all recognize that bad things hinder us in the future and we must put them behind.
- We must also recognize that even good in the past could hinder us. If we think about those things too long, dwell there, stay there and wish for them to return we will be no good for the present and the future



But you have to be willing to PLAN AHEAD!





# Why you can't Look Back

- Someone said, “People who live in the past are doomed to failure in the future.” Living in the past (even a good past) can taint the future.

# Every sin has been covered?



# Every sin has been covered?



- When Paul talks about forgetting the past he is **not** referring to erasing the past

# Every sin has been covered?



- Bad memories can never be forgotten.
- Paul is saying don't allow your past failures, hurts, and disappointments keep you from experiencing God's best for your life.
- For many, their past is holding them hostage. They are being held hostage by past failures, mistakes, and disappointments.





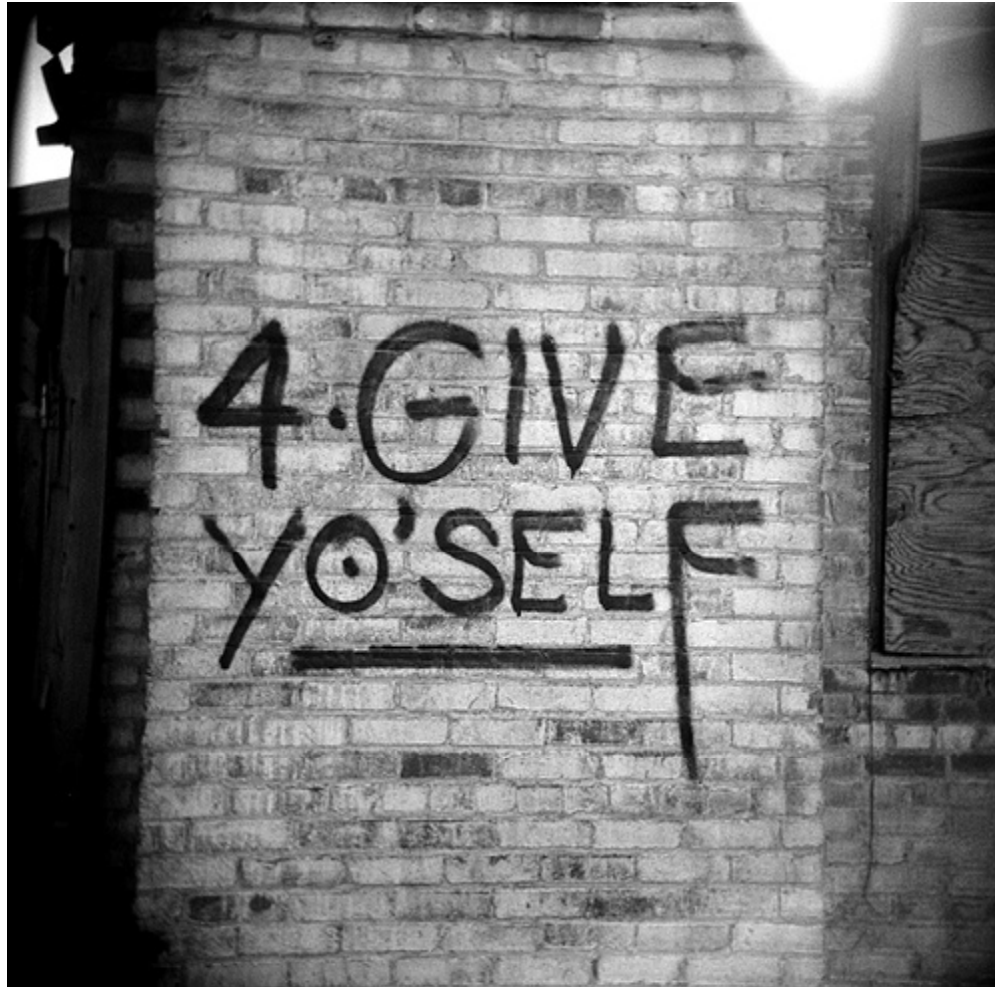
**Tomorrow is Today**

**Today is our  
Tomorrow**

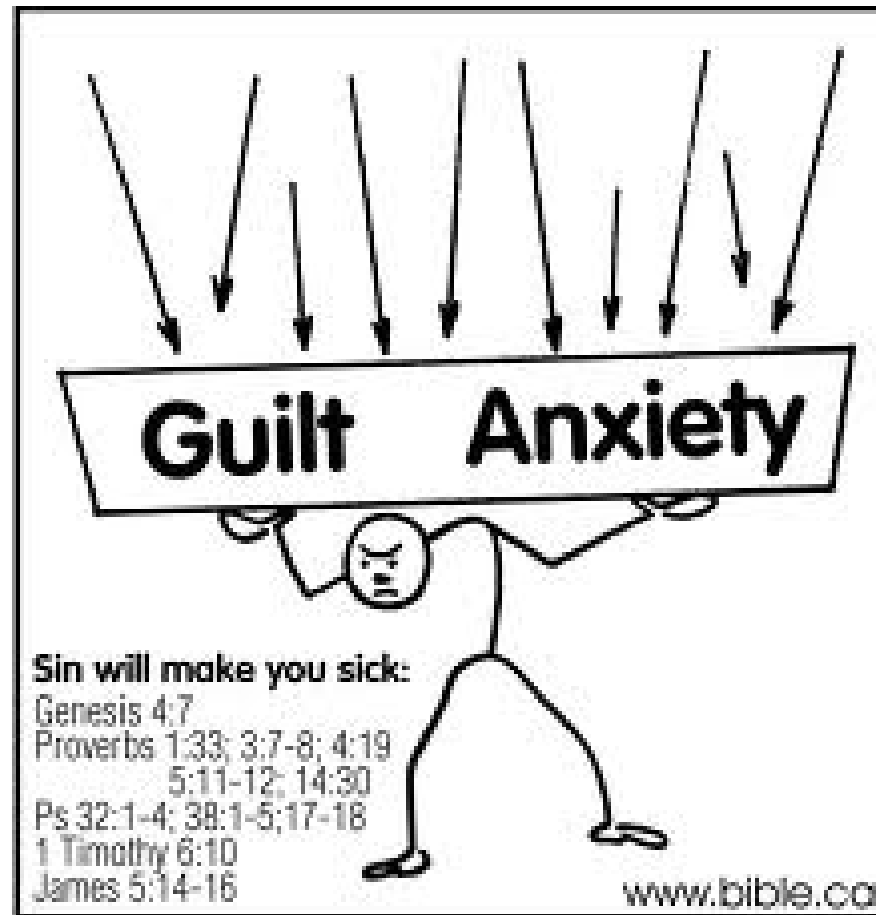
# Why you can Look Back

- Look back over your life. Thank God for His grace, which forgives your bad past, big or small.
- Thank God for His grace, which enabled you to do good things in the past.

**Can you 4 give yourself?**



# Make peace with your past, so it won't mess up the present!?



## PAUL: The Best Example

- Despite his misguided persecution of the Church, which could have resulted in debilitating personal guilt, He did not succumb to its power to imprison him.
- **He said,**  
“And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent [violently arrogant] man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.  
*And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus*” (1 Tim. 1:12-14 NKJV).

## II. PLANNING AHEAD

- Phil. 3:14 “I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”
- “**PRESS ON,**” used as a verb is very rare.
- **Meaning:** Continue moving forward
- The phrase “Press on,” is military term or a soldiers way of saying, “Be strong in your heart and move forward.”

I press on...  
Focus upon One Thing....



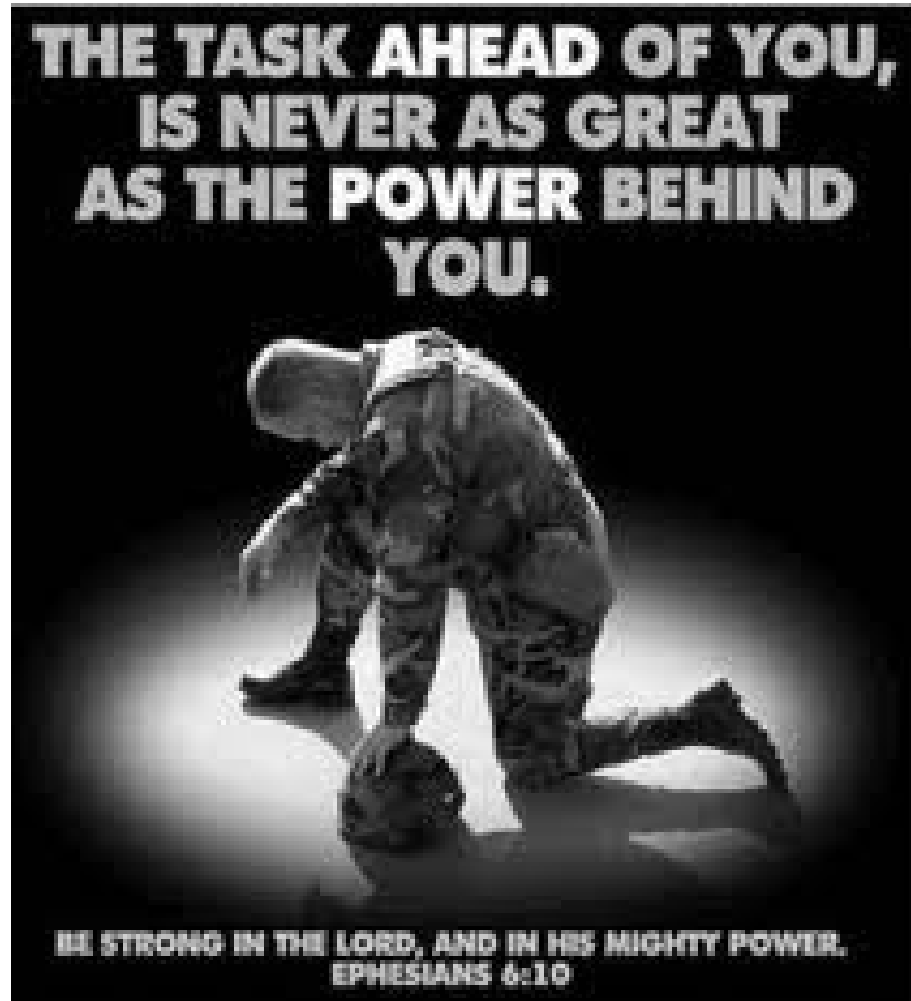
**2 Corinthians 12:9**

# 2 Corinthians 12:9



- **2Co 12:8** Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.
- **2Co 12:9** But he said to me, **"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."** Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

**Be strong in the Lord, & in His mighty  
POWER Eph. 6:10**





# The Power of Focus and Planning Ahead



## II. PLANNING AHEAD



**You start with One Million  
Dollars**

## II. PLANNING AHEAD



**You plan by planning where to  
place the \$**

# PLANNING AHEAD

- **Which Mattel Barbie doll they did NOT make?**
- 1. Barbie Maid
- 2. Barbie Lingerie
- 3. Barbie Sunday School



# PLANNING AHEAD

- The show forces you to focus
- The show forces you to trust your partner
- The show forces you to make decisions carefully.
- It forces you to **PLAN AHEAD**

# PLAN AHEAD TO BE SPIRITUALLY PREPARED



- Two reactions at funerals.
- Crying loudly and many tears of regret
- Confident and serene

# PLAN AHEAD AND BE SPIRITUALLY PREPARED

- **James 4:13-15** “Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow.
- **What is your life?** You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.”



# **Biblical scholar's date for rapture: May 21, 2011**

- Harold Camping: “The end of times will be May 21, 2011.”
- If this is true would you be prepared?  
Have you planned for this announcement?



## 2 of the 6 are SPIRITUALLY PREPARED

<b>No Life</b>	◆ <b>Not a Christian.</b>	Spiritually dead. Insensitive to God's presence and purpose.
<b>New Life</b>	◆ <b>New Christian.</b>	Not fully grown but the potential like a seed is all there.
<b>Lots of Life</b>	◆ <b>Growing Christian.</b>	He is sensitive and alert to the special life that is flowing through him. Evidences of life.
<b>Doesn't nurture life</b>	◆ <b>Backsliding Christian</b>	He sees no fruit and is living contrary with himself.
<b>Ignores life</b>	◆ <b>Fallen away</b>	A person who ignores the needs of his spiritual life. Perhaps he has even left the Christian faith.
<b>Abundant life</b>	◆ <b>Mature Christian</b>	A Christian who has consistently grown over a number of years. The growth is steady and the fruit is consistent.

# Worship takes planning



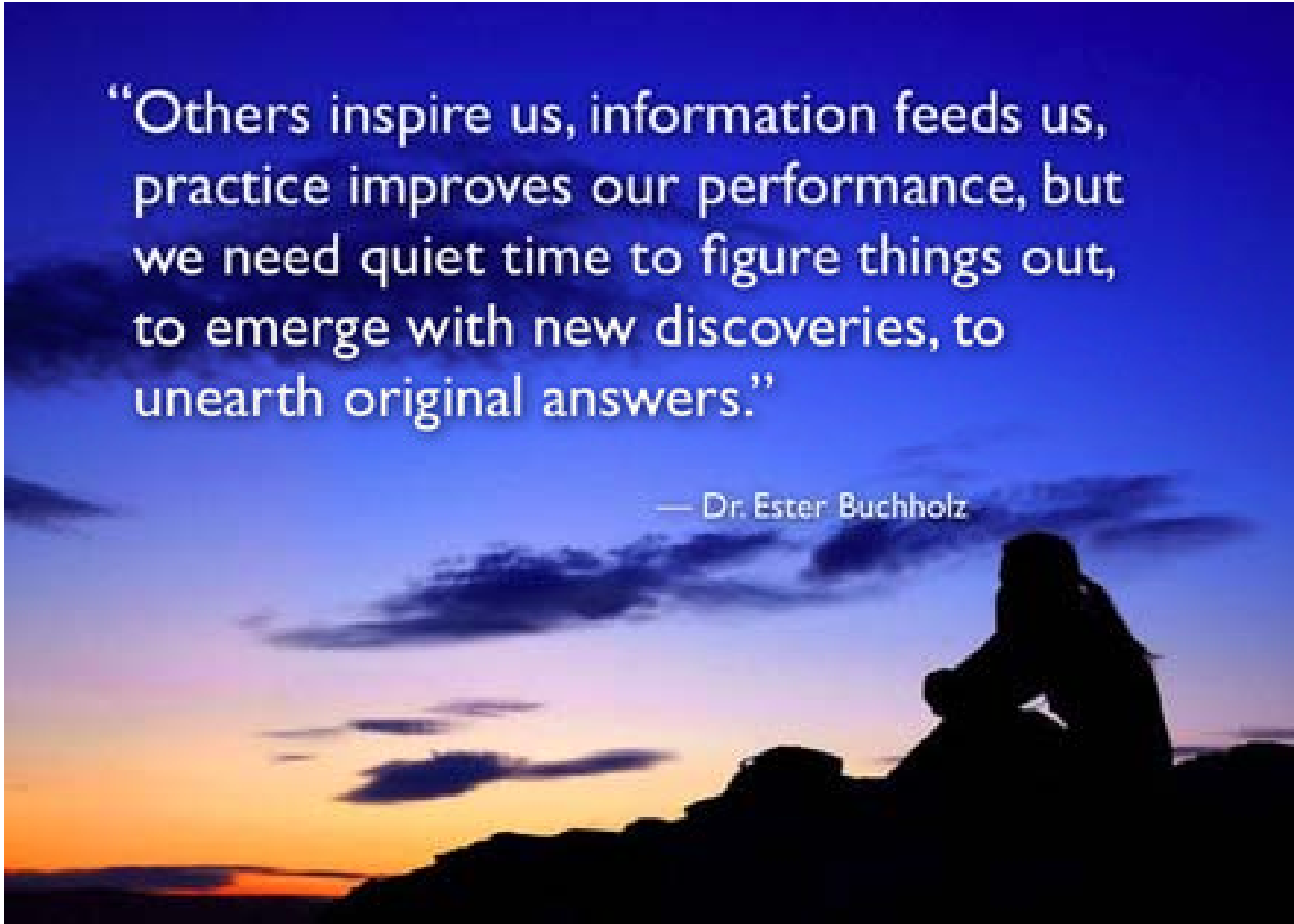
# Growing in the faithful takes planning

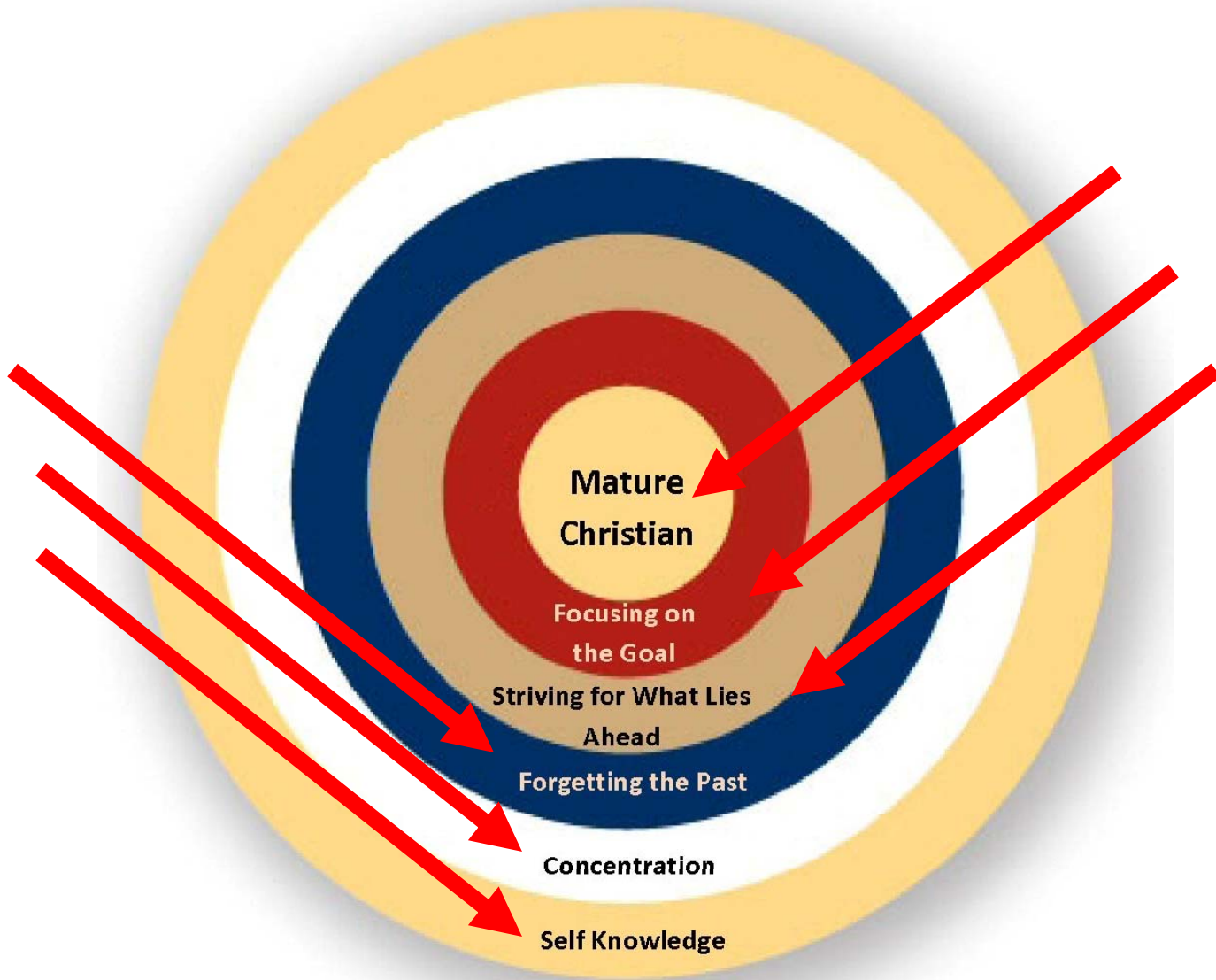


# Our Quiet Times will take planning

“Others inspire us, information feeds us,  
practice improves our performance, but  
we need quiet time to figure things out,  
to emerge with new discoveries, to  
unearth original answers.”

— Dr. Ester Buchholz





# Look Back, Plan Ahead

