

PRESSING FORWARD IN FAITH



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*A Covenant Guide for the Completed
Jew (Apostolic Pentecostal
Perspective)*

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Foreword

This booklet explores what Scripture means by “pressing forward in faith.” We examine the Hebrew and Greek words that capture this idea, study biblical characters who modeled it in the Old Testament and the Gospels, and draw out practical steps for believers today. May this aid your walk as you press toward the prize God has set before you.

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Introduction

“Pressing forward in faith” describes active, intentional pursuit of God’s call and promise despite opposition, delay, suffering, or uncertainty. The biblical picture is not passive resignation but determined movement—running, pursuing, pressing into God’s presence and purpose. This booklet traces

the language and models in Scripture so you can imitate faith that advances.

The Word “Press”: Hebrew and Greek Foundations

Hebrew (Old Testament)

- **דָחַף** (dachaph / ἀ-τ-χ-ρ): literally “to push, thrust, drive.” Used for physical pushing and (by extension) urging forward or being driven into action.
- **לָחַץ** (lachatz / ἀ-τ-χ-τς): “to press, squeeze;” used for pressure and distress, and the act of pressing.
- **רָדַף** (radaph / ἀ-τ-χ-ρ): “to pursue, chase after.” In moral/spiritual context it can mean to pursue righteousness or pursue God’s purposes.

These Hebrew roots provide the range: push, pressure, and pursuit—together yielding the idea of pressing forward under compulsion or conviction.

Greek (New Testament)

- **διώκω** (diōkō): “to pursue, chase, strive after.” Often used of zealously pursuing a goal.
- **σπεύδω** (speudō): “to hasten, be eager, make haste” — urgency in moving forward.
- **ἐπιμένω** (epimenō): “to remain, persevere, persist” — endurance in pressing on.

- προστρέχω (prostrehō): “to run to, hasten to” — approaching urgently, often in faith.

Paulic and gospel imagery mixes pursuit, striving, earnest haste, and perseverance—capturing the dynamic movement of pressing into what God calls us to.

Pressing Forward: Old Testament Examples

Each example highlights how faith pressed forward amid obstacles:

- Noah (Genesis 6–9; Hebrews 11:7)
Acted in obedience to build the ark while the world mocked; persevered through preparation and the flood.
- Abraham (Genesis 12; 15; 22; Hebrews 11:8–19)
Left home by faith, lived toward a promise yet unseen, endured testing (including the command to offer Isaac).
- Sarah (Genesis; Hebrews 11:11)
Believed God’s promise despite natural impossibility and advanced age—faith that pressed through doubt.

- Joseph (Genesis 37–50)

Pressed through betrayal, slavery, and imprisonment; maintained integrity and trusted God's sovereignty.

- Moses (Exodus; Hebrews 11:23–29)

Endured rejection, risk, and leadership strain; kept his eyes on God's promise despite trials.

- Joshua and Caleb (Numbers 13–14; Joshua)

Pressed into the land's promise when others retreated in fear—faithful perseverance to possess what God had sworn.

- Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah (Judges)

Rose in faith amid weakness and opposition to deliver Israel, pressing into God's call even when inadequate.

- David (1 Samuel, Psalms)

Pursued God's heart through persecution and trials; pressed forward in leadership and worship.

- Daniel and his friends (Daniel 1–6)

Stood firm in exile, pressed into faithfulness under pressure, trusting God for deliverance and wisdom.

Each of these persons pressed forward by believing God's words, enduring hardship, and acting despite fear or opposition.

Pressing Forward: Gospel Examples

The Gospels portray people who pressed to Jesus in urgency and faith — good models for believers today.

- The woman with the issue of blood (Mark 5:25–34; Luke 8:43–48)

She pushed through the crowd and touched Jesus' garment—her faith pressed through barriers to healing.

- Blind Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46–52; Luke 18:35–43)

Persistently called out to Jesus despite rebuke; his insistence drew Jesus' attention and restoration.

- The Canaanite (Syrophenician) woman (Matthew 15:21–28; Mark 7:24–30)

Pressed her plea for her daughter despite initial dismissal; humility and perseverance won Jesus' answer.

- The centurion (Matthew 8:5–13; Luke 7:1–10)

Exhibited bold, humble faith in Jesus' authority—pressed his trust to ask for another's healing.

- Jairus and those who sought Jesus for his daughter (Mark 5:21–43)

Urgent faith that sought Jesus in a desperate hour—pressing until Jesus brought restoration.

- The persistent widow (Luke 18:1–8, parable)

A parable teaching persistent prayer and pressing for justice until hearing comes.

- Peter and the disciples (e.g., Matthew 4; 14:28–31)
Left nets and sometimes stepped into risk; their failures and recoveries illustrate pressing forward despite setbacks.
- Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1–10)
Climbed to see Jesus, pressed into Jesus' presence, and responded in changed life.
- The ten lepers (Luke 17:11–19)
Came with desperation; one returned with thanksgiving—pressing to Jesus resulted in healing.
- Mary of Bethany (Luke 10:38–42; John 12)
Pressed into intimate devotion—sitting at Jesus' feet and anointing him sacrificially.

These accounts show faith that is proactive, persistent, humble, and single-minded in pressing into Jesus' power and presence.

Living It Out: Practical Steps

Principles and practices to help you press forward in faith:

- Know the promise: Regularly read and meditate on God's promises so your faith has a direction.
- Pray with persistence: Like the persistent widow, keep bringing your needs and the needs of others before God.

- Move in obedience: Act on what God has revealed—even small steps advance faith.
- Endure opposition: Expect trials; let them refine rather than deter you. Remember Hebrews 11 portraits.
- Pursue community: Surround yourself with fellow believers who encourage, pray, and hold you accountable.
- Remember God’s faithfulness: Recall past deliverances to fuel present courage.
- Be humble and bold: Approach God with reverent boldness—run to Jesus in honest need.
- Serve sacrificially: Pressing forward often involves giving time, resources, and reputation for God’s kingdom.

Questions for Reflection and Group Study

- In what area of life do you feel called to “press forward” now?
- Which biblical example most encourages you, and why?
- What fears or obstacles are hindering your pressing forward? How will you address them this week?
- What practical step can you take in the next 7 days to move toward God’s promise?
- Who will walk with you as an accountability partner in this season?

Closing Prayer and Blessing

Heavenly Father, give us the grace to press forward in faith. Grant perseverance when the path is hard, clarity when confusion comes, and boldness to act on Your promises. May we run to Jesus in urgent faith, serve sacrificially, and finish the race You have set before us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Blessing: Go in faith. Press toward what God has set before you, trusting that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion.

Selected References (Scripture)

- Genesis 6–9; 12; 15; 22; 37–50
- Exodus 2–14; Numbers 13–14; Joshua (whole book)
- Judges 6–11; 13–16
- 1 Samuel; 2 Samuel; Psalms
- Daniel 1–6; Hebrews 11
- Mark 5; 10; Matthew 8; 15; 14; Luke 8; 18; 19; John 12; Luke 10