FORWARD: FORWARD AFTER CRISIS Pastor Johnson Bowie March 5-6, 2016

Philippians 3:12-14 NIV

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 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.

How do I move Forward after Crisis?

3. Choose JOY.

James 1:2-4 NLT

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 NIV

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

2. Choose to TRUST.

Romans 8:18 NLT

Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later.

Romans 8:28 NLT

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

Romans 8:38-39 NLT

And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1. Choose to MOURN.

Matthew 5:4 NIV Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Pentheo: the strongest word for mourning in the Greek language

Why do we mourn?

Matthew 5:4 NIV

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

How do we mourn?

"The body attempts to heal the wound too quickly and as a result, the wound closes up on the outside without getting healed on the inside. The advice is to regulate the speed of the healing for the long-term health of the individual. The sooner treatment is initiated for a wound, the quicker healing will be accomplished and with minimal scarring. From the other view, when we see the worst of wounds, we must remain optimistic and proceed with treatment. All wounds will heal, some prettier than others, but heal they will."

Philippians 4:6-7 NIV

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

How do I move Forward after Crisis?

I have to let Christ into the crisis.