

## **FORWARD: FORWARD THROUGH THE TEST**

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### **Philippians 3:13-14 NLT**

*No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.*

### **What Forward May Look Like to You:**

- It's fulfilling for you.
- It's Christ-centered.
- It gives glory to God.

### **1 Peter 4:12 NASB**

*Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you...*

### **James 1:12 NIV**

*Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.*

### **Luke 4:1-2 NIV**

*Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.*

### **Three Tests We Need to Overcome to Move Forward:**

1. The Purity Test: Satan came to test the desires of the flesh.

### **Luke 4:3 NIV**

*The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."*

### **Deuteronomy 8:3 NKJ**

*“...man shall not live by bread alone...”*

### **Galatians 5:16-17 NLT**

*So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.*

## 2. Lust of the Eyes: Love of the World

### **Luke 4:5-7 NIV**

*The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. If you worship me, it will all be yours.”*

### **Luke 4:8 MSG**

*Jesus refused, again backing his refusal with Deuteronomy: “Worship the Lord your God and only the Lord your God. Serve him with (all of your heart).”*

### **Matthew 6:19-21 NABRE**

*“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.”*

## 3. The Pride Test: The original sin at the root of every failure in our lives.

### **Proverbs 16:18 NIV**

*Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.*

**Pride:** failure to accept and perceive the reality of our total

dependence on God

“Pride is the absence of humility as darkness is the absence of light and a vacuum is the absence of atmosphere.”

**Philippians 2:3 NIV**

*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves...*

**How Jesus Became Successful Through Tests:**

1. He knew His identity.

**Matthew 3:16-17 NIV**

*As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”*

**Ephesians 3:16-17 TLB**

*...that out of his glorious, unlimited resources he will give you the mighty inner strengthening of his Holy Spirit. And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts, living within you as you trust in him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God’s marvelous love...*

2. He knew the Word.

3. Endurance

**James 1:2-4 NASB**

*Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*

**Romans 5:3-4 ESV**

*Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope...*