

May 20, 2007

Jeff Mikels

## FOCUS: What Doesn't Kill You, Makes You Stronger

"I PRESS ON TOWARD THE GOAL TO WIN THE PRIZE FOR WHICH GOD HAS CALLED ME ..." — PHP 3:14

WEEK 3

Sometimes progress is thrust upon me // fishing // SERIES REVIEW

A **PRIORITY** of **PROGRESS** puts **PAIN** in **PERSPECTIVE**.

*I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.*

Philippians 4:12

*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 press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 3:12-14

Someone has to clean the fish // initially I resisted

ALSO SOMETIMES PROGRESS ELUDES ME, mom's wagon, charlie's motorcycle

Progress rarely comes on our terms, but we can still make it a priority.

## God made us for progress.

*And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.*

Luke 2:52

To prioritize progress, we need to know our **GOAL** and our **PATH**.

## What's the goal?

*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

Genesis 1:27

*Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.*

Genesis 3:7

Our goal is to live out the **IMAGE** of **GOD**.

Jesus is the model

*He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.*

Colossians 1:15

*Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross...*

Hebrews 12:2

*For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn, with many brothers and sisters.*

Romans 8:29 NLT

As we become more like **JESUS** we become more fully **OURSELVES**.

## How do we get there?

*What makes us strongest, almost kills us.*

Ben Saunders & Patrick Willis

## Understand Assassination Attempts

**CHANGE | PAIN | PEOPLE | TEMPTATION**

I understand many of you have had a great deal of pain...

## Understand The Dark Side

Some things need to **DIE**.

*Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it."*

Matthew 16:24-25

## Your Next Steps

- **EVALUATE YOUR CURRENT CONDITION.**
- **RENEW YOUR MIND.**
- **SHIFT YOUR VALUES.**
- **CHANGE YOUR BEHAVIOR.**

What would it be like if everyone of us made progress a priority?

NEXT WEEK: DON'T JUST SIT THERE

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- \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_.