

How much do you
want?

Phil 3:4-5 (TPT)

"It's true that I once relied on all that I had become. I had a reason to boast and impress people with my accomplishments — more than others — for my pedigree was impeccable."

v7-8

Yet all of the accomplishments that I once took credit for, I've now forsaken them and I regard it all as nothing compared to the delight of experiencing Jesus Christ as my Lord! To truly know Him meant letting go of everything from my past and throwing all my boasting and all that I thought made me better than others on the garbage heap. It's all like a pile of manure to me now, so that I may be enriched in the reality of knowing Jesus Christ and embrace Him as Lord in all of His greatness.

v9

My passion is to be consumed with Him and not clinging to my own “righteousness” based in keeping the written Law. My “righteousness” will be His, based on the faith of Jesus Christ—the very righteousness of God.

v12-13

I admit that I haven't yet acquired the absolute fullness that I'm pursuing, but I run with passion into His abundance so that I may reach the destiny which Jesus Christ has called me to fulfill and wants me to discover. I don't depend on my own strength to accomplish this; however I do have one compelling focus: I forget all of the past as I fasten my heart to the future instead.

Paul let go of his own strength and ability, his experience, his reputation.

Why?

Because he saw something better - something worth everything.

He was on a journey

There was more

He knew he had not arrived

We can be held back:

Change from dependence to
independence.....

Don't need a loving Father

We can be held back:

We think the place we are at now is our ultimate destination.....

We know we are loved, we know his love is enough..... *but.....*

So we settle and stay put (stagnate)

Don't need a loving Father

ENDURANCE

There are times when it is a struggle and we feel like giving up

What keeps us going is the knowledge that there is something better ahead

Whatever fruit we see, there is more and better fruit to come

Maori Proverb

"Turn your face to the sun and the shadows fall behind you"

HOPE

An expectation and desire for a particular thing to happen

"You gotta have hope. Without hope life is meaningless. Without hope life is meaning less and less" Anon

"We must accept finite disappointment, but we must never lose infinite hope" Martin Luther King Jr.

It is the hope of something better that keeps us going and stops us becoming stagnant!

Rom 4:17 (...about Abraham)

As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.” He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed — the God who gives life to the dead and *calls things that are not as though they were.*

2 Cor 6:18 "I will be a Father to YOU"

An ongoing and active relationship.

Father's love becomes the bookshelf on which everything else stands. When we settle, the shelf changes and becomes just another book - what then is your bookshelf?

How much do you want?

And what will you do to get it?