

The Best Is Yet To Come: Onward

Raul Mendez — 1/1/2023

Philippians 3:12-14 (MSG commentary)

I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, Reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward- to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back.

3 sides of Paul we see in this passage:

1. We see him being Real
2. Confident
3. Focused

In 2023, what are you running after this new year?

Here's 3 things I hope we all chase this year.

1. Get to know God better.

God's desire for us isn't that we just learn more about him, his desire is that we experience him each day in our lives

Luke 24:39 - look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! TOUCH me and see....

2. Trust God through the hurt.

There will be hardships and failures this year that can't be explained.

2 Corinthians 12: ... in our hardships we are made strong

When we find ourselves in circumstances that give us no other choice but to turn to God, that's the best place we can ever be in.

3. Learn to wrestle with God

We see multiple people in scripture wrestling with God, over one thing or another.

- Abraham: Genesis 18, over the destruction of Sodom
- Jacob: Genesis 32, was looking for confirmation in his life

- Canaanite women: Matthew 15, continued to be persistent even after Jesus ignored her and was sent away
- Paul: 2 Corinthians, Continue to plead God time after time to remove a “thorn” that he carried

When we learn to wrestle with God we learn that in that process, wisdom, understanding, hope and peace are found.

How do you wrestle with God?