

Sermon Title: Another Level

Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Adolphus C. Lacy

Biblical Passage: Philippians 3:12-14 (NIV)

### **Passage Background and Summary**

*<sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*

In this passage, Paul is speaking to the church at Philippi concerning living like Christ. Living like Christ is a constant goal that Christians should be in pursuit of. It is not something Paul has truly attained yet, but it is something he is working toward. He is moving beyond to another level.

### **Sermon Points**

God is calling us to another level. We have something special in Pastor Warnock. We have a pastor constantly moving to the next level, and he can only go as far as we go. There is a symbiotic relationship between pastor and people.

Four things you need to go to the next level:

1. **DISSATISFACTION: You have to be dissatisfied with where you are.** We can't go further if we're satisfied. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many of us became dissatisfied with the way church was, and it allowed us to be creative and innovative.
2. **DEVOTION: You have to have devotion; focus on that one goal.** Some of us are doing too many things. If you're focused on too many things, you can't fully commit to the main thing. You have to be committed to the ministry and have a vested interest in the ministry.
3. **DIRECTION: You have to have direction.** "Remember when" will kill a church. Paul puts an emphasis on the future. We have to forget the greatness of the past and focus on building a new future. We must move forward.
4. **DETERMINATION: You have to have determination.** Like Paul, we must "press." We get mad when people push against us, or it hurts when they don't see the vision. But the more they push against us, the stronger we get when we push back. We can thank God for our burdens because they teach us how to trust in God, and we find strength in endurance

### **Reflection Questions**

1. Reflect on a time when you were promoted, or God elevated you to a new level. What happened? What was required of you?
2. Have you ever been dissatisfied with life, with a job, situation, etc.? How did you respond?

3. What are you devoted to?

4. How do we demonstrate devotion to Ebenezer Baptist Church and Pastor Warnock?

5. Share the last time you took a new direction in your life. What caused you to make that move?

6. Give an example of a time you demonstrated determination in the face of adversity.