

Summary of Message by Pastor Bryan Hudson, DMin

FORWARD: The Only Direction God Is Moving

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This message presents "Forward" as a foundational theme: **God's direction is always forward**, and those who walk with Him must align themselves with that movement. The focus is on developing the right **perspective, mindset, and faith** to move into a new season with clarity and spiritual strength.

Hebrews 12:1–2, *Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Perception by Ryan Holiday: *Perception is how we see and understand what occurs around us—and what we decide those events will mean. Our perceptions can be a source of strength or of great weakness.*

Just because other people say that something is hopeless or crazy or broken to pieces doesn't mean it is. We decide what story to tell ourselves. Or whether we will tell one at all. Welcome to the power of perception.

Forward Is a Mindset

Forward is more than physical movement. It is a **way of thinking and living**. Without a forward mindset, life becomes confined to two realities:

The past (what has already happened)

The present (what is currently happening)

But God is always revealing something beyond what we currently see. A forward mindset embraces growth, development, and destiny rather than remaining trapped in memory or circumstance.

Perception Shapes Experience

A central principle of the message is that **perception influences reality**. Events are real, but how we interpret them determines how they shape us. Believers must guard against allowing:

Other people's narratives

Cultural narratives

Emotional reactions

to define their reality.

This is not about positive thinking alone; it is about aligning perception with **God's Word, promises, and character**. Faith itself is a God-centered perspective.

What you perceive may not automatically change circumstances—but it will change **you**, and that transformation positions you for forward movement.

Hebrews 12:1–2 — The Roadmap for Forward Movement

The message uses Hebrews 12:1–2 as a spiritual roadmap for going forward:

Lay aside every weight — not everything that slows you down is sinful, but unnecessary burdens must be released.

Lay aside sin — entanglements that ensnare must be removed.

Run with endurance — forward progress requires persistence, not speed.

Run your race — avoid distraction, comparison, and outside noise.

Look unto Jesus — He is both the author (starter) and finisher (developer) of faith.

Forward living requires discipline and focus. Just as travel requires a map, purposeful spiritual movement requires direction and clarity.

The Greatest Obstacles: The Past and the Present

The message identifies two major threats to forward progress, along with a third contrasting promise:

The Peril of the Past

The Peril of the Present

The Promise of the Future

The Peril of the Past

The past becomes dangerous when it pulls us backward emotionally, mentally, or spiritually. The peril of the past includes:

Successes that create complacency

Failures that create shame

Mistakes that create regret

People who try to hold us in old versions of ourselves

A key distinction is made:

Remembering means learning lessons.

Looking back means longing to return.

Looking back prevents growth because it distracts from what God is doing now. The warning of Lot's wife illustrates that backward movement can lead to destruction. She was instructed to flee judgment, but instead turned back toward what she was leaving. The lesson: when God says move forward, hesitation and reversal are dangerous.

The message also emphasizes the importance of accurate remembrance. Ignoring or distorting history does not solve problems; it perpetuates them. To move forward properly, foundations must be truthful and sound.

The Peril of the Present

The present becomes perilous when circumstances alone define identity and possibility.

The example of Israel at the Red Sea (Exodus 14) demonstrates this danger. They had been delivered from slavery but faced:

An impassable sea ahead

An advancing army behind

Their past slavery mindset combined with present fear tempted them to retreat. Circumstances seemed to say they would never be free.

The command "Go forward" was not merely directional; it was transformational. It was a call to:

Change perspective

Reject fear-driven narratives

Align with God's promise

Even when nothing had visibly changed in the moment, God's word introduced a new reality. The message stresses that the greatest difference between a crisis and victory is often **what you think**

about it. God’s perspective interrupts fear and invites repentance—not necessarily from sin, but from wrong thinking.

Repentance is defined as **changing the mind**, and mindset change becomes the gateway to blessing.

Moving Forward Requires Intentional Alignment

Forward progress may require practical changes:

- Adjusting what influences your thinking
- Limiting negative or fear-based inputs
- Choosing trusted voices
- Refusing paralysis by over-analysis

Standing still is easy. Moving forward is difficult because it involves risk, mistakes, and emotional discomfort. But stopping is not an option if God is moving.

The Promise of the Future

If the past contains peril and the present contains pressure, the future contains promise.

The promise of the future rests on two anchors:

- Character in Christ**
- God’s promises**

These provide stability when circumstances fluctuate. Jesus endured the cross “for the joy set before Him,” seeing the future redemption of humanity. That forward vision sustained Him through suffering.

Likewise, believers endure by focusing on what God is building ahead.

The Meaning of FORWARD

The message concludes by defining forward living through seven qualities:

- Faithful** — steady and full of faith
- Obedient** — responsive to God without delay
- Resilient** — able to recover after setbacks
- Wise** — operating in Christ-centered discernment
- Aligned** — staying in step with God’s Word and plan
- Redemptive** — participating in spiritual and social restoration
- Destined** — moving toward God’s appointed purpose

Final Emphasis

The core declaration remains clear:

- Do not be trapped by the peril of the past.
- Do not be defined by the peril of the present.
- Live in the promise of the future.

God’s way is forward. Those who walk with Him must move in that same direction—mentally, spiritually, relationally, and missionally—bringing others along toward redemption and purpose.