

Initiative

My brothers, I do not consider myself to have fully grasped it even now. But I do concentrate on this: I leave the past behind and with both hands outstretched to whatever lies ahead I go straight for the goal—my reward the honor of being called by God in Christ.

—Philippians 3:13-14 (Phillips)

To **Reach** or **Stretch** is to **Initiate!**

You need to exercise initiative—a forward **A-C-T-I-O-N** that fuels intentionality!

Accept Responsibility for Your Life

“Most people don’t lead their lives; they accept their lives.” —John Kotter

Note the personal pronoun found in Philippians 3:13-14:

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“They did nothing in particular and did it very well.”
—W.S. Gilbert

Confront Procrastination

Why or what do we procrastinate?

Undesirable—If we don’t like something, we tend to delay it

Uncomfortable—Things that make us feel inadequate

Unreasonable—Things we don’t understand

Unessential—Tasks that are not public or prominent

Unpredictable—Confrontations, problems

Unequal—The return of the investment is not worth the expenditure of time and effort

Ungrateful—Accomplishments that go unnoticed

“He slept beneath the moon;
He basked beneath the sun.
He lived a life of going-to-do,
And died with nothing done.”

—James Albery

Take a First Step

“It’s a cliché to say that every journey begins with the first step, yet it is still true. Talent-plus people don’t wait for everything to be perfect to move forward. They don’t

wait for all the problems or obstacles to disappear. They don’t wait until their fear subsides. They take initiative. They know a secret that good leaders understand: momentum is their friend. As soon as they take that first step and start moving forward, things become a little easier. If the momentum gets strong enough, many of the problems take care of themselves and talent can take over. But it starts only after you’ve taken those first steps.” —John Maxwell, *Talent is Never Enough*

intentionality

“Momentum is nothing more than initiative in action.”

“You must get involved to have impact; no one is interested in the win-loss record of the referee.”

—John H. Holcomb

“But above all, try something.”

—Franklin D. Roosevelt

Ignore Some Objections

“Nothing will ever be attempted if all possible objections must first be overcome.” —Samuel Johnson

“He who deliberates fully before taking a step will spend his entire life on one leg.” —Chinese Proverb

Operate in “Quit” Mode

“To be a real winner, you have to stop doing the stuff that’s not good for you.” —Jim Allen

“Winners stop doing things that are not good for them. Losers stop doing things that are good for them.”

—John Maxwell

Nourish Your Inner Life

In Philippians 3:13-14, the Apostle Paul never lost sight of what he was pushing toward. It was not a goal that served the present, but something that would matter forever.

You must nourish your inner life in order to maintain focus, momentum and initiative!