

Daily Devotion For November 22, 2021

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, **I press on** toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:12-14*

In just a few days our nation will pause to celebrate Thanksgiving. Here is a part of the Thanksgiving story you may not know. While the first Thanksgiving was celebrated in October of 1621, it was not until October of 1777 that all 13 colonies celebrated Thanksgiving, for the first time. At one point, our first president, George Washington, proclaimed a National Day of Thanksgiving, but conflict and difficulties among the colonies put an end to its observance.

It was a magazine editor, Sarah Josepha Hale, whose work led to the celebration of the Thanksgiving holiday we observe today. Hale wrote letters to governors and presidents, and editorials in magazines, books and newspapers, promoting the observance of Thanksgiving. In 1863, **after 40 years** of letter writing and campaigning, Hale's persistence paid off and President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a National Day of Thanksgiving. Since then, every president has supported Thanksgiving. Forty years of dedication, persistence and passion, all to make sure that this country would celebrate a National Day of Thanksgiving each year. Impressive.

We can learn from Hale's perseverance. It took her 40 years to accomplish what she set out to do. Just like her story, the Christian faith is often described as a marathon, not a sprint. Each day of our life is another day to choose between right and wrong, to help someone in need, to read the bible and pray.

Thought For Today: As Paul reminds us in Philippians 3:12-14, Christians are called to persevere and press on. What if Hale had chosen to give up after one year or ten years? Her goal would have been left unfinished. What are some areas in your life that require you to press on?

Today's Prayer Focus: Pray for God's help and strength to press on and persevere through whatever trials you are facing today. Take time to review the updated prayer fuel. Deo Volente.