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Press On

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Press On

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ipUm9LiBW0>

But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS 3:13-14

On September 22, 1989, at the age of 101, Irving Berlin passed away peacefully in his New York City townhouse.

For much of the 20th century, his music served as a cultural soundtrack—marching with soldiers into war, lifting spirits during dark times, and celebrating the enduring hope of the American spirit.

In 1927, Berlin wrote the poignant line, “The song is ended, but the melody lingers on.” Just one year later, that melody became deeply personal—his only son died on Christmas Day.

Irving Berlin’s life was marked by both brilliance and heartbreak. He was just 13 when his father died, 24 when he lost his young bride to typhoid, and 40 when he buried his son. Yet despite his grief, Berlin pressed on.

Over a 60-year career, he composed more than 1,500 songs, including timeless classics like "White Christmas," "Easter Parade," "Cheek to Cheek," and "God Bless America." Surprisingly,

Berlin's most enduring legacy isn't simply found in the music he wrote—but in the resilience he lived. He didn't allow sorrow to silence his song. He kept creating, kept loving, kept giving—his life a melody of perseverance and purpose.

Scripture speaks of such strength: "But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." —Philippians 3:13-14

Abraham pressed on to receive the son of promise. Ruth pressed on to follow the one true God and found herself grafted into the lineage of Christ. Mary of Bethany pressed on by choosing the better part—sitting at Jesus' feet.

And the ultimate example? Jesus Christ—who pressed on all the way to Calvary, out of pure, sacrificial love for you and me.

Today, the powerful lyrics of Selah still echo: "When the valley is deep, when the mountain is steep... in Jesus' name, we press on."

So when the music fades and the moments grow quiet, let the melody linger on. Let it sing of faith, endurance, and hope.

To the glory of God—in Jesus' name, we press on.

Karen Good

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