

The background is a teal gradient. In the center, the words "MOVING UPWARD" are written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. To the left of the text are three large, dark grey, 3D-style downward-pointing arrows. To the right of the text is a single, lighter grey, 3D-style upward-pointing arrow. A thin white vertical line is positioned to the left of the upward arrow. To the right of the upward arrow, the text "Pursuing Intimacy with God" and "Phil 3:12-19" is written in white, sans-serif font. The entire scene is reflected on a glossy surface at the bottom.

MOVING UPWARD

Pursuing
Intimacy with
God

Phil 3:12-19



WHY IS PURSUING INTIMACY WITH GOD DIFFICULT?

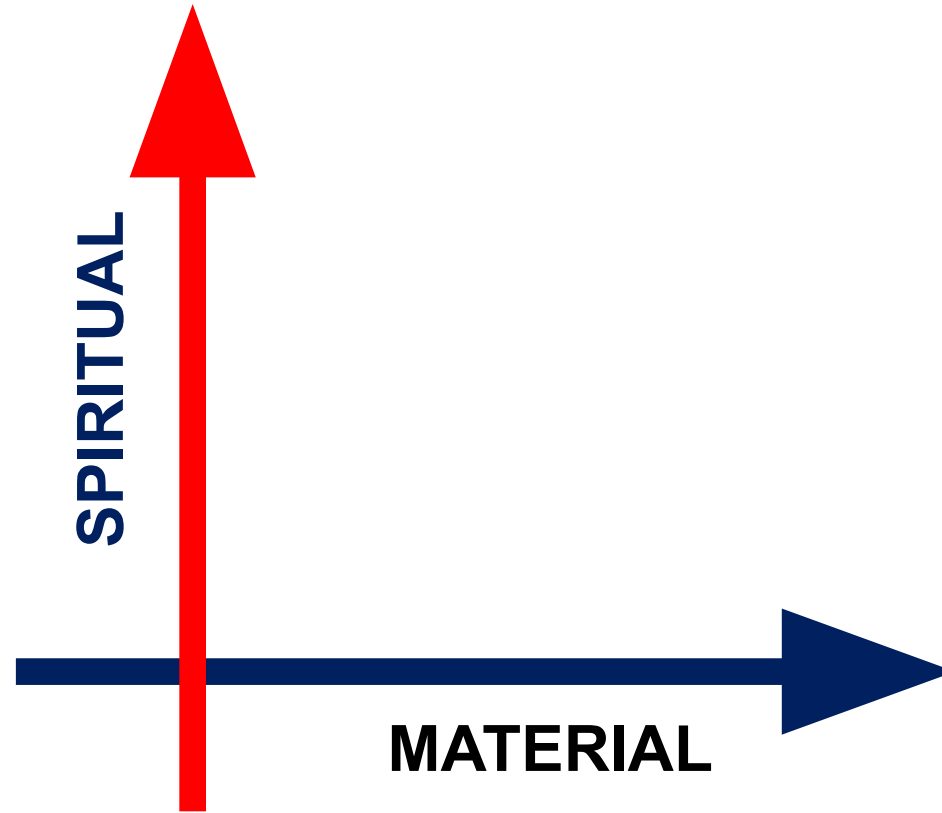
SOME ANSWERS FROM CHATGPT

1. WE ARE **BUSY** AND **DISTRACTED**
 2. **GUILT** & **SHAME** DISTANCE US FROM GOD
 3. WE EXPECT **INSTANT RESULTS**
 4. **SPIRITUAL OPPOSITION**
 5. WE DON'T KNOW HOW
 6. **WOUNDS** FROM THE PAST
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IT'S HARD TO PURSUE AN UNSEEN GOD & UNSEEN KINGDOM

INVISIBLE &
AMBIGUOUS

- Born Again??
- Seek His Kingdom??
- Draw near to God??



VISIBLE & NON
AMBIGUOUS

- ✓ Study Philippians
- ✓ Attend Church Service
- ✓ Meet for CG
- ✓ Serve in Children's Church

¹² Not that I have already ^[a]grasped *it all* or have already become perfect, but I press on if I may also take hold of that ^[b]for which I was even taken hold of by Christ Jesus. ¹³ Brothers *and sisters*, I do not regard myself as having taken hold of *it yet*; but one thing I *do*: forgetting what *lies* behind and reaching forward to what *lies* ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Therefore, all who are ^[c]mature, let's have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that to you as well; ¹⁶ however, let's keep ^[d]living by that same *standard* to which we have attained.

¹⁷ Brothers *and sisters*, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us. ¹⁸ For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even as I weep, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ, ¹⁹ whose end is destruction, whose god is *their* ^[e]appetite, and *whose* glory is in their shame, who have their minds on earthly things.

HOW TO MOVE UPWARD?

- **FEROCITY** – “Move Fast” (v12-13a)
 - **FORGET** – “Move On” (v13b-16)
 - **FOLLOW** – “Move With” (v17)
 - **FIGHT** – “Move Against” (V18-19)
-

STAGES IN OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE

¹² Not that I have
already grasped *it all* or have
already become perfect



FEROCITY - “MOVE FAST”

¹² Not that I have already grasped *it all* or have already become perfect, but I **press on** (*diōkō* – “relentless pursuit”) if I may also take hold of that ^[b]for which I was even taken hold of by Christ Jesus. ¹³ Brothers *and sisters*, I do not regard myself as having taken hold of *it yet*; but one thing *I do*: forgetting what *lies* behind and **reaching forward** (*epekteinomai* – “to stretch”) to what *lies* ahead, ¹⁴ I **press on** (*katheuthynō* – “single mindedly”) toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

FORGET - “MOVE ON”

¹³ Brothers *and sisters*, I do not regard myself as having taken hold of *it yet*; but one thing *I do*: ***forgetting what lies behind*** and reaching forward to what *lies ahead*,

FOLLOW - “MOVE WITH”

¹⁷ Brothers *and sisters*, join in **following** my example, and **observe** those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.

FIGHT - “MOVE AGAINST”

¹⁸ For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even as I weep, *that they are* the **enemies of the cross** of Christ, ¹⁹ whose end is destruction, whose god is *their* appetite, and *whose* glory is in their shame, who have their minds on earthly things.

SUMMARY

- Moving Upward is **not an easy task**
 - There are **Stages** in our walk with God
 - The **4 motions** toward intimacy with God:
 - Move **fast** (with intensity & effort)
 - Move **on** (let go of things that hold us back)
 - Move **with** (journey with others who are ahead of us)
 - Move **against** (unhealthy desires)
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REFLECTION

- What is **one key insight** I gained from today's sermon? How can I **intentionally apply** it as I move forward in my faith journey?
- What **emotions** surfaced during the sermon? What might the Holy Spirit be **revealing** to me about my current values, priorities, or areas needing realignment?