



Finishing Strong

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An Inductive Study

In the Bible, finishing strong means to complete the work God has given you, and to do so by following Jesus' example. It's about staying focused on your purpose and bringing glory to God through obedience and faithfulness.

Here are some things to consider when thinking about finishing strong:

- **It's not how you start, it's how you finish:** It's not how you started your career, marriage, or dream, but how you finish it that matters.
- **You're on God's team:** As children of God, you can finish the race as a strong winner, no matter how many times you get knocked down.
- **Intimacy with Christ:** Grow in your knowledge of Christ and make Him known to others.
- **Serve God in every aspect of your lives:** Serve God in your work, decisions, and leadership.
- **Prayer:** Begin your study with prayer.

The Grace of Finishing Strong

One of the verses God uses to refocus our lives can be found in **1 Corinthians 15:10 KJV** Paul had spent the previous verses clearly delineating (explaining & describing) the Gospel & its effect on his life.

He recognized that he was where he was in life because in grace, Jesus changed his life; and he confidently asserted this truth.

“But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.”

Like Paul, we should want to fulfill the destiny for which Jesus made us His own.

We should not want to live out the rest of our lives just letting things “**play out.**” We should want to go to our grave accomplishing all that JESUS had in mind for us.

Most people determine their own definition of a successful life, and they live out their days seeking to achieve success by their own definition, but God had something else in mind.

When Jesus made us His, He bought the right to determine what our success is and we should want to know what that is and fulfill it.

We shouldn’t desire or want to live to just please ourselves, or anyone else, for that matter.

Finishing Strong means, we accomplish all He intended for us when He made me His own. Oh, that His grace in our lives will not be in vain!

The Goal of Finishing Strong

Another verse God used to refocus our lives is

2 Timothy 4:6-8 NIV

“⁶ For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.”

As Paul was nearing the end of his life, he looked forward to receiving the reward for faithfully serving Jesus.

Interestingly, heavenly rewards are not participation trophies.

Paul knew there were three things he had done to merit those rewards. We see them in verse 7. Notice the definite articles before each one.

“The Fight”

Not every fight is worth fighting. Paul means **“good fight”** neither in terms of how he fought nor the cause for which he fought.

He didn’t mean that he did a good job fighting. Nor did he mean that he was fighting for something because he thought it was **“good.”** He fought **THE GOOD** fight.

He didn’t get to pick his battles. The 13 books he wrote, and the last 16 chapters of Acts, where Luke documents Paul’s ministry, makes it obvious the Gospel was his fight.

We have wasted a lot of our lives, fighting a lot of “good battles” politics, issues, church stuff.

But we should want to devote our remaining lives to **THE GOOD** fight: the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Only the Gospel is the Power of God & the path to salvation.

“The Course”

The word Paul uses for race pictures a course or path. He emphasizes not that he just ran, he ran the path God laid out for him.

We should want to finish **OUR** course. We should want to finish the race God has set before us and not what others set before us.

His voice will direct each turn and twist in the path and tell us when to brake and when to accelerate. He calls the pit stops and tells us when to stay on the track.

We should want to run with endurance the race He has set before us.

Hebrews 12:1 NIV tells us “**Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us**”

“The Faith”

I hear people say all the time, “**you just gotta have faith!**” Really? But faith in what or whom. Paul stated he had *kept* the faith. That meant he guarded it against attack or decay. It also meant he obeyed it.

He didn’t try to change the truth to accommodate his culture or his circumstances. There was no concept of “**your truth**” and “**our truth**” There was only *THE* faith. **Jude 3** referred to it as “*the* faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”

Ours is an age of relativity, the absence of standards of absolute and universal application and truth has become a casualty. But God’s Word has never changed. We should want to learn it more deeply, teach it more clearly, and live it more carefully.

We should want & need God’s Word to transform us and through our teaching transform others.

In **Philippians 3:13-14**, Paul encourages us to forget what is behind and press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called us heavenward in Christ Jesus.

This passage reminds us that we should not dwell on our past mistakes or failures, but instead focus on the future and continue to strive towards our goals with faith and perseverance.

In **2 Timothy 4:7-8 NIV**, Paul reflects on his own life & ministry, saying, “⁷ **I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.** ⁸ **Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day & not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.**”

This passage serves as a powerful reminder that we must remain faithful and committed to God until the very end, knowing that our reward awaits us in eternity.

Hebrews 12:1-2 tells us to "**run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.**"

As we journey through life, we are called to remain steadfast in our faith, keeping our focus on Christ and allowing Him to guide us towards the finish line.

Finally, in **Revelation 2:10**, Jesus encourages His followers to "**be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown.**"

This verse emphasizes the importance of unwavering faith and dedication to God, even in the face of adversity or persecution. By remaining steadfast in our faith, we can finish strong and receive the reward that God has promised to those who persevere until the end.

In conclusion, finishing strong in our faith requires perseverance, dedication, and a steadfast focus on Christ.

By following the examples set forth in Scripture and allowing God to guide us, we can run our race with faith and confidence, knowing that our ultimate reward awaits us in eternity.

Our prayer is that God will not let us be like so many we read about today who have changed their message.

By His grace I pray that He will help us be true to Him and His Word. May He enable us to keep *the* faith..... **It's Never Too Early to Start Finishing Strong**

Whatever the case, finishing strong begins today. Start where you are. Ask God for grace to begin your finish. May His grace not be in vain in our lives.