

HOW WILL YOU FINISH?

How To Finish Well

Acts 20:24, I Corinthians 9:22b-27, II Timothy 4:6-8

Did Not Finish Well

David Lot
Moses Saul
Aaron Samson
Solomon Jonah

Finished Well

Daniel Caleb
Joseph Joshua
Elijah
Abraham

“I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.”

~Acts 20:24

“I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some. I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it. Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.”

~I Corinthians 9:22b-27

“For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up 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 loved His appearing.”

~II Timothy 4:6-8

1. FOUNDATIONAL...BE FAITHFUL:

Faithful...Gk. *pistos*, means to be *worthy...worthy of trust or confidence*. To be *dependable*.

Both a **verb** and an **adjective**. Describes *who we are* and *what we do*.

*“I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me **faithful**, putting me into service”*

~I Timothy 1:12

*“O love the Lord, all you His godly ones! The Lord preserves the **faithful**.”*

~Psalm 31:23

Parable of the talents...

*“Well done, good and **faithful** servant. You were **faithful** with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.”*

~Matthew 25:21

2. DEMONSTRATE SPIRITUAL MATURITY:

Able to feast on the *meat* of the Word...not just the *milk*. Displays deep roots of **faith...unwavering...steadfast**. Looks for...and seeks...the *deep truths* in the Word. Lets the Word of God determine their *values*...not culture. He doesn't live his life based on *religious clichés*.

*“We have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words...But he who is **spiritual** appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he will instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.”*

~I Corinthians 2:12-13, 15-16

*“I, brethren, could not speak to you as to **spiritual men**, but as to men of flesh, as to **infants** in Christ. I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able.”*

~I Corinthians 3:1-2

*“Speaking the truth in love, we are to **grow up** in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ.”*

~Ephesians 4:15

*“Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to **maturity**...”*

~Hebrews 6:1

3. WALK IN FORGIVENESS:

- Give forgiveness...*Seven times seventy* (**Matthew 18:21-22**; **Luke 17:3-4**)
- Get forgiveness...*The Prodigal Son* (**Luke 15:11-32**)
- Forgive yourself...takes *genuine repentance*.

*“Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, **forgiving** each other, just as God in Christ also has **forgiven** you.”*

~Ephesians 4:32

4. LIVE A LIFE OF HOLINESS: (Purity)

Holy...Gk.*hagios*, it means *sanctified, set apart, pure*.

*“For I am the Lord your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be **holy**, for I am **holy**...you shall be **holy**, for I am **holy**.”*

~Leviticus 11:44-45

*“...You shall be **holy**, for I the Lord your God am **holy**.”*

~Leviticus 19:2b

*“...You shall be **holy**, for I am **holy**.”*

~I Peter 1:16

5. BE A PERSON OF INTEGRITY:

Integrity...Means *complete* and *blameless*...*clear conscience*.

*“The Lord said to Satan, ‘Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man fearing God and turning away from evil. And he still holds fast his **integrity**...’”*

~Job 2:3

*“Is not your fear of God your confidence, and the **integrity** of your ways your hope?”*

~Job 4:6

*“God will not reject a man of **integrity**...”*

~Job 8:20

*“He who walks with **integrity**, and works righteousness, and speaks truth in his heart.”*

~Psalm 15:2

*“Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have walked in my **integrity**, and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering...But as for me, I shall walk in my **integrity**; redeem me, and be gracious to me.”*

~Psalm 26:1, 11

*“As for me, You uphold me in my **integrity**, and You set me in Your presence forever.”*

~Psalm 41:12

*“He who walks in **integrity** walks securely...”*

~Proverbs 10:9

6. DISPLAY GODLY CHARACTER:

Just as sports don't just *build* character but *reveal* character... so do *trials*...*testing*...*tribulation*. Godly character is *forged* through the *refiner's fire*.

*“...We have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, **proven character**; and **proven character**, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”*

~Romans 5:2-5

7. EXHIBIT HUMILITY:

*“He leads the **humble** in justice, and He teaches the **humble** His way.”*

~Psalm 25:9

*“When pride comes, then comes dishonor, but with the **humble** is wisdom.”*

~Proverbs 11:2

*“The fear of the Lord is the instruction for wisdom, and before honor comes **humility**.”*

~Proverbs 15:33

*“Whoever exalts himself shall be **humbled**; and whoever **humbles** himself shall be exalted.”*

~Matthew 23:12

*“...Walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all **humility** and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love,”*

~Ephesians 4:1-2

*“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with **humility** of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.”*

~Philippians 2:3-4

*“So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, **humility**, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.”*

~Colossians 3:12-13

*“Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in **humility** receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.”*

~James 1:21-22

*“...God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the **humble**.”*

~James 4:6

*“...God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the **humble**. Therefore **humble** yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time”*

~I Peter 5:5-6

8. BE ONE TO IMITATE:

*“I do not write these things to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For if you were to have countless tutors in Christ, yet you would not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. Therefore I exhort you, **be imitators of me**. For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, and he will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, just as I teach everywhere in every church.”*

~I Corinthians 4:14-17

*“Be **imitators** of me, just as I also am of Christ.”*

~I Corinthians 11:1

*“Therefore **be imitators of God**, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.”*

~Ephesians 5:1-2

*“You also became **imitators of us and of the Lord**, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.”*

~I Thessalonians 1:6-7

FINAL THOUGHTS:

- **Don't lose your first love.** Be committed and still be in love. Your love for the Lord (Church at Ephesus) and your love for others...(Mr. and Mrs. Thomas in the nursing home after Mrs. Thomas had Alzheimer's).
- **Don't lose your worship.** Worship is preeminent for the believer. Don't let anyone or anything rob you of your worship. There is no excuse for losing your worship...other than a lukewarm heart. When one loses their worship...in reality, they have begun to focus on themselves instead of the Lord.
- **Always walk in Grace.** Temper everything with Grace.