



# FOUNTAIN OF HOSANNA CHURCH OF CHRIST

## BIBLE STUDY SERIES: "FINISHING STRONG" #3

Tuesday, 16 July 2019

### Key Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:7

*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. NKJV*

### Introduction

In our bid to finish strong, we should make more efforts to make a clear positive and **good impact** in the end. **1 Corinthians 3:14-15** <sup>14</sup> *If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup> If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.* NKJV

The impact is the effect or result that one thing or person has on another. Everyone is born to provide a solution. You are created to make an impact. It takes the capacity to make a good impact. The good impact may be financial or career – Psalm 113:7-8, academic, marital, ministerial or spiritual.

As a follow-up to this series, we shall examine the second type of finishers.

### B. Devised Purpose...

**Hebrews 11:13** – *All these people died still believing what God had promised them. They did not receive what was promised, but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed it. They agreed that they were foreigners and nomads here on earth.* NLT

### 2. Sudden Finishers

This type of people started the race on a very good and encouraging note but, they were cut short in the middle of their races. Although they did not fail in the race, they were abruptly taken away like a candle in the wind. Their lights were plugged, and their flames were quenched untimely. These are some of the reasons they finished suddenly -

- a. **Immaturity** – Stephen was a Spirit-filled disciple and full of faith and power Acts 6:8. He lacked the ministerial experience that rather made him appear 'proud' before his accusers – Acts 7:51, 54. Unfortunately, he was stoned to death at his first and last public sermon – Acts 7:57-58. Note Paul's recommendation of appointing elders or bishops in the church – 1 Timothy 3:6-7. **1 Corinthians 10:32** - *Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God.* KJV



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- b. **Carelessness** – If Satan is given a foothold, in no time, he will make it a stronghold. Our humility in prayer and service will be a strong force to resist the devil – James 4:7. James, one of the 12 disciples of Jesus, was arrested and killed – Acts 12:1-2. He was a lone ranger. The church acted in defence by retreating rather than launching an attack. James was cut short and his apostolic race was terminated in prison. Peter would have died in a similar manner – Acts 12:5, but the Church prayed for him.
- c. **Insensitivity - Matthew 10:16** - *Behold, I send you forth as **sheep** in the midst of **wolves**: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.* KJV. Naboth was not 'smart' enough to see the death trap in the king's invitation – 1 Kings 21:12-13. The Christian race is not against other people but against deadly enemies of the world, the flesh and devil. Naboth's light was dimmed, his hope was dashed, and his life wasted! What a painful exit from the race. Therefore, Christians must watch carefully - **Ephesians 5:15** - *Look carefully then how you walk! Live purposefully and worthily and accurately, not as the unwise and witless, but as wise* (sensible, intelligent people). AMP.
- d. **Ignorance (misdirected zeal) - Romans 10:2** *I know what enthusiasm they have for God, but it is misdirected zeal.* NLT. More than knowing God is to learn and to know His Ways and Words. His Words contain His Will. If we pray according to His Will, He hears us – 1 John 5:14. Uzzah did not know the written laws about the handling of the Ark of God. He fell short and God smote him dead while in service! – 2 Samuel 6:6-7. Cf. Numbers 4:15. Yes, you can do all things but not all things are lawful to you - **1 Corinthians 6:12** - *"Everything is permissible for me" - but not everything is beneficial..."* NIV. The knowledge of the Word of God will rather guide us into all truth and against danger.

### Conclusion

It is your race, but you cannot run alone. You need others as much as they need you. May your light shine in its time and your glory in its hour. You shall make a good impact on your generation. You shall finish strong and nothing shall cut you short. Amen.

### Next Week

We shall look at the third type of Finishers. God bless you. Let us pray.