



FOUNTAIN OF HOSANNA CHURCH OF CHRIST

BIBLE STUDY SERIES: "FINISHING STRONG" #6

Key Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:7

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

Introduction

No man succeeds on his own. You will always need someone to support or patronise your efforts to succeed. When success manifests, elements of favour and mercy, among others, must have been involved. **1 Corinthians 10:11** - *Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.* NKJV. Jesus Christ admonishes us to learn the way of good success through Him - **Matthew 11:29** - *Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.* NIV. The creation of God is made to last and not to fade or faint. **You are not created as a weakling for the race and battle of destiny** – 2 Corinthians 9:8, and any additional 'burden' is needless, read Acts 15:10-11, 19.

In this last segment of the series, we shall learn to understand what steps to take to finish Strong so that we can achieve the purpose of God for our creation.

D. Destined Purpose

Ecclesiastes 3:14 - *And I know that whatever God does is final. Nothing can be added to it or taken from it. God's purpose is that people should fear him.* NLT. It is this 'fear' that drives a man to succeed and finish strong in these possibilities -

1. Selflessness – Matthew 6:33

This is neither negotiable nor debatable; it is a useful and beneficial command to us – Matthew 22:37-38. The entire being of a man should be after God, to love and follow Him. A selfless life is a life void of its own ambitions or desires, a crucified life that is only sustained by God. Such a life is fuelled and directed to the right path of success through God. **2 Peter 1:3** - *For as you know him better, He will give you, through his great power, everything you need for living a truly good life...* TLB. A selfless life does not entertain worries (and cares of life), no 'maybes' or 'what ifs' phrases. **Self is a weight.** A selfless life puts all burdens on God and has a strong assurance of sustenance by God - Psalm 55:22. **Run your race to finish strong and let Him run your age by His ever-sufficient grace.** **Philippians 4:6** - *Don't worry about anything but pray about everything.* CEV. **A selfless life is a sustained life by God being kept to the end.**

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2. Submission – Joshua 1:8b

Submission without obedience is suppression. Excellence is rooted in total and absolute obedience by submission – **not just doing what you like but what is right**. God gives several incentives (additional promises) to His people if they submit to and diligently obey His Words – Deuteronomy 28:1-14, read verse 2. Obedience becomes a natural lifestyle as an 'ardent' follower of God. **Psalm 63:8** - *My soul followeth hard after Thee: Thy right hand upholdeth me.* KJV. If demons will obey your voice, you must first obey the voice of God. **Psalm 32:8** - *I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you.* NIV. **A submitted life by obedience neither fails nor falters.**

3. Service – John 4:34

Then Jesus explained: "My nourishment comes from doing the will of God, who sent me, and from finishing his work." NLT. Service to God makes earthly situations to serve us – Luke 18:29-30. You only keep covenants through active service, and this makes you a treasured possession before God – Exodus 19:5. God's honour comes through service – John 12:26. God destroyed Pharaoh because he prevented the children of Israel from serving God – Exodus 4:23; 7:16; 9:1; 10:3; 11:1 read 12:31-32 and 14:14. Our service to God, in the course of our race of life, is a form of duty to be 'willingly' observed – Luke 17:7-10. Recall the Centurion (a commander of 100 foot-soldiers) whose servant was sick and at the point of death (Luke 7:2). He went all out for the recovery and healing of his precious servant – Cf. Psalm 31:19-20. **You cannot serve God and live like a servant.**

Conclusion

It is a waste of resources and heaven's treasure to die in the way. Jesus laments over the position of certain God's people that will miss out of God's provision in Heaven – Matthew 8:12. It is a choice, but you can succeed with God - **John 15:5** – *"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."* NKJV. You shall finish strong in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Next Week

The lesson continues and concludes. Let us pray.