

FINISHING STRONG

Three Resolutions for Every Believer

Introduction

DNF or DNFS: Every Christian is at risk of not finishing or not finishing strong.

Paul's approach to life models three high-priority commitments to ensure we too will finish strong.

Read 2 Timothy 4:6-8.

Context:

Observations:

1. Paul's confidence
2. Paul's challenge to Timothy, and to us
 - finishing strong is a big accomplishment
 - finishing strong isn't easy or automatic
 - finishing strong is well rewarded

Resolution One: **Fight the good fight.**

- Fight to take hold of the the faith to which you were called (1 Timothy 1:18; 6:12)
- Fight to take hold of the life that is truly life (1 Timothy 6:19)

Resolution Two: **Finish the race.**

- Complete the course God has marked out for you. (Acts 20:24)
- Run to win. Train hard. Run purposefully. (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)

Good beginnings do not guarantee good endings.

(Example: Solomon, 1 Kings 10-11)

Resolution Three: **Keep the faith.**

Mid-course stumbling can be turned into a winning finish.

(Example: Peter, Luke 22; John 21)

- “keep”: attend to carefully; take care of; guard; observe
- don't lose it; don't let it slip away; “continue” in it (2 Timothy 3:14; 1 John 2:28)
- “the faith”: the body of truth (divinely revealed view of reality) called Christianity
- “*Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.*” (Every Christian is at risk of the designation:. 11:1)
- “*Physical eyesight produces conviction or evidence of visible things; faith is the organ which enables people (like Moses, 11:27) to see the invisible order.*” (F.F. Bruce, Hebrews, NICNT)

Summary and Application

Why Christians are at risk of not finishing strong:

1. Because we are in a real fight.
2. Because we are in a long race.
3. Because the Christian life requires belief (faith, trust) in an invisible reality.

Why Christians should persevere to the end:

1. Because being “sure of what we hope for” is based on the promises of a reliable God. (Hebrews 11:1)
2. Because God exists and He “rewards those who earnestly seek him”. (Hebrews 11:6)

Wherever you are in your life, **resolve** to “fight the good fight, finish the race, and keep the faith”.