

A Strong Finish

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:8-9
Hebrews 12:1-2

1 Corinthians 1:8-9 NIV He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. {9} God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NKJV) Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Introduction

Tell the story you heard on the radio about the little boy who was in the race, who fell. Hearing his father's voice cheering for him, he got up and began to run again, then fell again. Again his father's encouraged him and he got up and began to run again. He fell a third time, and lay there in shame with no hope of winning the race, but now not only did he hear his father's voice cheering for him, but the entire crowd cheered for him to finish the race.

I. The goal

1 Corinthians 1:8b NIV ...so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 2:15 (NKJV) that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

Ephesians 5:27 (NKJV) that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

- A. That you become mature in Him
- B. That you have victory over temptation
- C. That your peers view you as blameless
- D. That your record in heaven be as one who is holy and without blemish

II. The method

1 Corinthians 1:8a NIV He will keep you strong to the end,

- A. Nurturing

1 Peter 2:2 (NKJV) as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word,

that you may grow thereby,

- B. Discipline

1 Corinthians 9:27 (NKJV) But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

- C. Spiritual growth

2 Peter 3:18 (NKJV) but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

Ephesians 4:15 (NKJV) but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head; Christ;

- D. Depending on Him

Ephesians 6:10 (NKJV) Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

III. The means

1 Corinthians 1:9 NIV God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

1 Thessalonians 5:24 (NKJV) He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

GIVE OUT HANDOUTS