

Completing the Assignment

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Scripture: Colossians 4:17
2 Timothy 4:7

Colossians 4:17 (NIV) Tell Archippus: "See to it that you complete the work you have received from the Lord."

2 Timothy 4:7 (NKJV) I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Introduction

Here is a veteran runner urging on a teammate. Perhaps Archippus had become discouraged, battle fatigued, or injured. But Paul says, "Get up!! Finish the work! God will provide the grace for you to complete your work."

I. When circumstances intervene

Ecclesiastes 9:11 (NKJV) I returned and saw under the sun that; ***The race is not to the swift, Nor the battle to the strong, Nor bread to the wise, Nor riches to men of understanding, Nor favor to men of skill; But time and chance happen to them all.***

- A. Unanticipated problems
- B. Personal tragedy
- C. Adverse health issues
- D. Financial reverses

II. Overcoming adverse circumstances

Job 23:8-10 (NKJV) "Look, I go forward, but He is not there, And backward, but I cannot perceive Him; 9 When He works on the left hand, I cannot behold Him; When He turns to the right hand, I cannot see Him. 10 But ***He knows the way that I take***; When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold.

Job 19:25 (NKJV) For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth;

Job 13:15 (NKJV) ***Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.*** Even so, I will defend my own ways before Him.

A. Remember that God is faithful

1 Peter 4:19 (NKJV) Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to ***a faithful Creator.***

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

1 Corinthians 1:9 (NKJV) ***God is faithful,*** by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NKJV) No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but ***God is faithful,*** who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

B. Learn the lesson taught by the difficulty

Job 34:32 (NKJV) ***Teach me what I do not see***; If I have done iniquity, I will do no more'?

Psalms 86:11 (NKJV) ***Teach me Your way,*** O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name.

Psalms 143:10 (NKJV) ***Teach me to do Your will,*** For You are my God; Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness.

C. Look for a creative alternative

1. Moses
2. Joseph

III. Completing the assignment

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2 Timothy 4:7 (NKJV) I have fought the good fight, ***I have finished the race,*** I have kept the faith.

- A. Seek the counsel of those in authority over you
- B. Seek the revealed will of God through the scripture
- C. Ask God for a revelation of His will
- D. Act immediately on what He says

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- II. Overcoming adverse circumstances
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1 Peter 4:19, 1 Thessalonians 5:24, 1 Corinthians 1:9, 1 Corinthians 10:13
 - B. Learn the lesson taught by the difficulty
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 - C. Look for a creative alternative
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