

# Compromising Our Ability to Finish Strong

**Scripture:**                   Philippians 3:14  
                                      Mark 4:19

**Philippians 3:14 NKJV** I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

**Mark 4:19 NKJV** "and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

## Introduction

Jesus addresses the most devastating diversions to our attaining our prize and achieving our goal, items that encroach upon our attention and divert our energy. They are: (1) the worries of this life, (2) the deceitfulness of wealth, and (3) the desires for other things. These stand in our way and prevent us from responding to Him properly so that we may finish our race strong and bear the increase He has designed for us.

## I. The goal

**Philippians 3:14 NKJV** I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

A. Keep the goal in sight

**Hebrews 12:1-2a NIV** Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. {2} Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith....

B. Send roots deep into Him

**Ephesians 3:17-19 NKJV** that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, {18} may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height; {19} to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

**Jude 1:20-21 NKJV** But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, {21} keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

## II. The compromise

**Galatians 5:7 NIV** You were running a good race. Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth?

A. Having roots in the wrong places

**Mark 4:19 NKJV** "and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

1. The cares of this world

- a. Preoccupation with job, entertainment, etc.
- b. Worries about finances

2. Deceitfulness of riches

- a. Preoccupation with success
- b. Thinking wealth will satisfy

John D. Rockefeller, when asked how much money is enough, replied, "Just a little more."

3. Desires for other things

- a. Addictive behaviors
- b. Wrong goals

B. Not protecting ourselves from encroachment

**Galatians 5:7 NIV** You were running a good race. Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth?

**Ephesians 6:12 NKJV** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

1. Protect your boundaries
2. Don't allow encroachment

Prophetic Word Just as you removed the tall grass where the children were concealed, remove the clutter in your life that conceals demonic activity. Do not give them (the demons) a nest from which to work. Remove their cover and they will flee.

### III. The strategy

**1 Peter 5:8-9 NKJV** Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. {9} Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

**James 4:7-8 NKJV** Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. {8} Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

- A. Determine right now how much territory you are willing to give up

**Ephesians 4:27 NIV** and do not give the devil a foothold.

- B. Take a stand

**Ephesians 6:13 NKJV** Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.