

# FINISH WELL

*Hebrews 12:1a (ncv)* We have around us many people whose lives tell us what faith means so let us **run the race** that is before us and **never give up**...

Three things we can do to finish well.

## 1. REMOVE DISTRACTIONS

*Hebrews 12:1b (ncv)* ...let us run the race that is before us and never give up. We should **remove** from our lives **anything that would get in the way** and the sin that so easily holds us back.

- A key to finishing well is to simplify our life.

Remove those things that are distracting us away from God's purpose for our life.

- The most difficult distraction of all is our past.

*Philippians 3:13-14 (tlb)* No, dear brothers, I am still not all I should be, but I am bringing all my energies to bear on this one thing: **Forgetting the past and looking forward** to what lies ahead, **I strain to reach the end** of the race and **receive the prize** for which God is calling us up to heaven because of what Christ Jesus did for us.

*Isaiah 43:18 (niv)* **Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.**

## 2. RESIST DISCOURAGEMENT

- Discouragement is a choice.

*Galatians 6:9 (tlb) Let us not get tired of doing what is right for after a while we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't get discouraged and give up.*

- How do we handle delay?

Delays do stretch our faith!

What is the secret to defeating doubt and discouragement?

*Psalms 37:1a (niv) Trust in the Lord and do good...*

Keep trusting the Lord despite our experience and just keep doing good!

*Philippians 1:6 (tlb) God who began the good work within you will keep right on helping you grow in His grace until His task within you is finally finished. What God starts in your life, He finishes and He's not through with you.*

## 3. REMEMBER THE REWARD

*1 Corinthians 9:25-26 (tlb) To win the contest you must deny yourself many things that would keep you from doing your best. We do it for a heavenly reward that never disappears. So I run straight to the goal with purpose in*

*every step. A heavenly reward, personally rewarded by God.*

- Our reward from God is not based on our performance.

God rewards us because of His amazing grace.

*Hebrews 6:12 (msg) Don't drag your feet. Be like those who stay the course with committed faith and then get everything promised to them.*

One of the ways we can focus on God's eternal reward is to focus on God's promises **NOW** that give us hope and faith in the tough times.

It's not how you start the race that matters.  
**It's how you finish it!**

Paul said, *I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4:7*

Question 1: **What do you feel like giving up on?**

Question 2: **What do you need to finish?**

Question 3: **What's holding you back from God's best?**