
Walking In The Spirit, Part III (Finishing)

The Walk of Holiness

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Sermon: The Walk of Holiness: Walking In The Spirit, Part III (Finishing)

Lesson Text

Galatians 5:16 (AV)¹⁶ *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

Hebrews 12:1–3 (AV)¹ Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, ²Looking 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 is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

2 Timothy 4:7–8 (AV)⁷ I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith: ⁸Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

Introduction

Last week, we talked about “Walking in the Spirit” by looking at the race. We learned that we must “Let Go” of the Weights that Slow us Down, the Sins that Trip us Up, and the Impatience that causes us to quit and give up altogether.

Today, let’s go back to that racer and look at what it takes to Finish the Race!

Have you ever seen a Spartan Race? It’s a weird race, because it’s not a smooth track that you normally see in a race.

You’re climbing over walls, crawling under barbed wire, going through mud and water, hanging from bars, and even leaping over fire.

Psalms 18:29 (AV)²⁹ For by thee I have run through a troop; and by my God have I leaped over a wall.

Psalms 66:12 (AV)¹² Thou hast caused men to ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water: but thou broughtest us out into a wealthy *place*.

This is how life and our Christian Race is. It’s never smooth, never predictable, never what you planned for, and never fair. Anybody feel that way? “This Just Isn’t Fair!”

Someone once told me that “Fair” is a place where they judge pigs!

Today we’re going to stop looking for a fair race or a fair fight, and just do like Paul in our lesson text, Fight your Fight, and Finish Your Course!

Series and Sermon: The Walk of Holiness: Walking In The Spirit, Part III (Finishing)

“Finishing The Course, Finishing The Fight, and Finishing The Victory”

I. Finishing The Course (Faith)

Hebrews 12:2 (AV) ²Looking unto Jesus the author and ***finisher of our faith***; ...

2 Timothy 4:7 (AV) ⁷I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith:

“Fraught with Peril” is an Old English phrase that means filled with problems, risks, or dangers; which is applicable for the course of life we run when Walking in the Spirit, running our race.

Like the Spartan race, there are things, traps, and pitfalls that pop up out of nowhere. Bad marriage, loss of job, betrayal, sickness, pandemic, social unrest, economic collapse.

These perils can lead to frustration, hopelessness, helplessness, despair, aggravation, depression, anger, and desperation.

And yet this is the course.

- Psalm 34:19 (AV)¹⁹ Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.
- Psalm 69:4 (AV)⁴ They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head: they that would destroy me, *being* mine enemies wrongfully, are mighty: then I restored *that* which I took not away.
- Psalm 22:1 (AV)¹ My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? *why art thou so far* from helping me, *and from* the words of my roaring?
- It is filled with troops, filled with traps and walls, filled with fire, filled with water.

Psalm 66:12 (AV)¹² Thou hast caused men to ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water: but thou broughtest us out into a wealthy *place*.

So how do we finish a course where we don't know what's coming next? Look to Jesus for Faith!

Hebrews 12:2 (AV) ²Looking unto Jesus the author and ***finisher of our faith***;

When you don't know what's coming next, stop looking at the course, and start looking at the finisher. Keep your eyes on Jesus, because he already knows how to finish!

2 Timothy 4:7 (AV) ⁷I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith:

II. Finishing The Fight (Joy)

Hebrews 12:2-3 (AV) ²Looking 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 is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ For consider him that **endured such contradiction** of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

The contradiction Christ endured means the hostility He suffered from those who hated Him.

In order to finish our course, we must finish our fight.

In the words of Sofia from the Color Purple, “All My Life I Had To Fight!” And those words are especially apropos (fitting or appropriate) for the Christian Fight today.

We must stop getting frustrated, upset, depressed, aggravated, and angry about our fight. Why? Because all of your life, you will have to fight.

Matthew 11:12 (AV)¹² **And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.**

It may not be “Fair,” but “Finish Your Fight!”

Do you remember when Mike Tyson bit off the ear of Evander Holyfield? That wasn't fair! But Holyfield kept on fighting until he finished his fight.

The fight isn't fair, the hurt isn't fair, the betrayal isn't fair, the racism isn't fair, the backbiting isn't fair!

So how do we finish a fight when the fight is not fair? Look to Jesus for Joy!

Hebrews 12:2 (AV) ²Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; **who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross**

How do you get joy in the middle of your fight? By realizing that in the end you win.

Romans 8:18 (AV)¹⁸ For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Philippians 4:13 (AV)¹³ I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

1 John 4:4 (AV)⁴ Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

Romans 8:37 (AV)³⁷ Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

III. Finishing The Victory (Place)

Hebrews 12:2 (AV) ²Looking 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 is **set down at the right hand of the throne of God.**

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We Finish our Course by Looking to Jesus for Faith, We Finish our Fight, by Looking to Jesus for Joy, and finally we Finish our Victory by Looking to Jesus for our Place!

When you finish your race, finish your fight, you get rewarded by the place you finish.

In the Olympics, if you finish in 3rd place, you get a bronze medal; if you finish in 2nd place, you get a silver medal; and if you finish in 1st place, you get the gold medal!

Sometimes in this race, in your battle, on your course, in this fight you may get weary, you will get tired, you may get to the place where you wonder if it's worth continuing.

You are in the 2nd mile of a 24-mile marathon and you're already tired; you're in the 3rd round of a ten round fight and you've already been knocked down twice. And you're starting to wonder, should I continue, or should I give up and quit.

I'm only in the 3rd year of the marriage, and it's already hell; I'm just starting the ministry, and nothing is working out; I've been on the job for years, but never seem to get the promotion.

So how do you finish when it looks like failure? Look to Jesus for your Place!

Philippians 1:6 (AV)⁶ Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:

Revelation 22:12 (AV)¹² **And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.**

2 Timothy 4:7–8 (AV)⁷ I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith: ⁸ **Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

And if God has a crown for you, then it's time for your **Victory Dance!**

Don't wait till the battle is over, go ahead and Shout Now!

Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: Walking In The Spirit, Part III (Finishing))

Lesson Text

- Hebrews 12:1–3, 2 Timothy 4:7–8

Sermon Outline (Notes)

I. *Finishing The Course (Faith)*

II. *Finishing The Fight (Joy)*

III. *Finishing The Victory (Place)*

Questions (What was your main takeaway from Sunday’s Sermon?)

I. Getting to Know “Me”

1. Tell us something interesting about yourself that most of us may not know?
2. What is the one thing that causes you to laugh every time you think about it?
3. Have your holiday plans changed in light of pandemic? If so, how? What are your plans now?

II. Into the Bible

Case Study: John the Baptist - A Finisher. Using your notes of this Sunday’s sermon and study of Matthew 11:1-11 (and any other Scripture references to John the Baptist you need), answer the questions that follow:

1. In Matthew 11:3-5, what, if anything, did Jesus do to boost John’s faith in prison to help him finish his course? Do you think it worked?
2. Look at Matthew 11:7-9 and explain what was John’s course or assignment? Do you think he completed the course with joy? Why or why not?
3. According to Matthew 11:10-11, what was John’s finishing place in the race of his life?

III. Life Application

1. How do you look to Jesus for joy when you are in a situation that “is not fair” and certainly not joyful?
2. In running this Christian race, what keeps you going even though you run into contradictions that you will win in the end? Share any scriptures, songs, stories, etc. that encourages you with your group.