

Finishing Well

"Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth."

Colossians 3:2



SETTING MY MIND ON THINGS ABOVE

Those who finish well are:

ACCEPTING

They accept what comes with this season of life including higher levels of frustration, loss of independence, inescapable indignities, and moments of embarrassment (Psalm 90:9-10).

BELIEVING

They believe that Jesus is Lord and that God raised Him from the dead (Romans 10:8-10), and their boast is in the cross of Christ (Galatians 6:14). No matter what may come, they know in whom they believe (2 Timothy 1:12).

CONTENT

There, of course, is a continuous learning curve associated with contentment. However, those who finish well have learned as best they are able, to be content with their family, friends, health, finances, and circumstances (Philippians 4:10-13).

DISCIPLINING

Discipleship is a life-time calling that changes as we age. Those who finish well understand their responsibility to pass a heritage of faith to the next generations (Matthew 28:18-20; Psalm 145:4-7).

ENCOURAGING

Through small acts and uplifting words, they encourage all in their sphere of life including family, friends, neighbors, and church family (Romans 12:8; 1Corinthians 14:3-4).

GOD-FEARING

They have a right respect and honor of God (Psalm 34).

GODLY

Living a life of godliness, they leave the best inheritance possible to their children and grandchildren (1 Timothy 4:8; 1 Timothy 6:6).

HOPEFUL

Knowing Christ and rejoicing in the glory of God, their hope is certain (Romans 5:5; Romans 5:2).

INTERCEDING

Spending time with God on behalf of others, they take the call to intercede in prayer seriously. Often when they pray, they picture themselves in the situation and pray as if for themselves (1 Timothy 2:1-4; Hebrews 13:3).

JOYFUL

They have an everlasting joy in God through Jesus Christ. This Holy Spirit produced joy causes them to see the beauty of Christ in everything, no matter their circumstance (John 15:9-11; Isaiah 35:10).

KNOWLEDGEABLE

They know the Lord Jesus (Philippians 3:10), what do to when they are afraid (Psalm 56:3-4), what the Lord requires of them (Micah 6:8), and how fleeting life is (Psalm 39:4).

LOVING

They know and believe the love God has for them. Therefore, they abide in Him and that love, and they show love to others (1 John 4:8; John 13:34).

MEDITATIVE

Those who finish well spend time in biblical meditation. Pondering Scripture and the things of God increases their understanding, protects their minds, and helps them focus on the Lord Jesus Christ (Joshua 1:8; Luke 2:19).

NON-JUDGMENTAL

Choosing to sit upon the seat of love instead of the seat of judgment, they show mercy. They understand that being judgmental puts up barriers, ruins relationships, and is the fruit of a heart out of tune with God (Matthew 7:1-5; Micah 6:8).

OBEDIENT

Obedience is the essence of their daily relationship to God. It is their spontaneous and reasonable response to His grace. They obey not to gain God's favor but because of His favor to them (Hebrews 11:8; Romans 12:1).

PEACEABLE

They put forth the required effort to live peaceably with others knowing it is a mark of God's wisdom in them, evidence of their growing spiritual maturity, and good for their health (1 Peter 3:10-11; Philippians 4:7).

QUICK

They are quick to obey, quick to avoid conflict, and quick to apologize. They are also quick to examine themselves, quick to pray, quick to give God the praise, and quick to speak of the Lord (Psalm 119:60; Philippians 4:13).

RESOURCEFUL

Living out their resourcefulness daily, they consider how best to use their personal resources, seek to develop the gifts and talents God has given them, and aspire to help provide for the necessities of others (Proverbs 3:27-28; Romans 12:10-13).

SERVING

The cross is their reason. Even though service is challenging, they know it is not time to quit or let the younger generation do it for them. They continue to serve for an audience of One (John 13:14-15).

THANKFUL

Their gratitude is not dependent on their circumstances. Always and in all things, they give thanks to God (Ephesians 5:20; 1 Thessalonians 5:18).

UNSWERVING

Watchful, dressed in the full armor of God, and with their eyes on the finish line, they are steadfast and immovable in the work of the Lord. (1 Corinthians 16:13; Ephesians 6:11; 1 Corinthians 15:58)

VICTORIOUS

Knowing they are in a spiritual battle they fight worldliness and oppose Satan's lies by fixing their eyes upon God. Through Bible reading, prayer, and other spiritual disciplines, they spend time with the Lord and find their strength in Him (Ephesians 6:10-20; Romans 8:37).

WALKING

Walking is something you do with someone you enjoy. Those who finish well walk with God. With their eyes fixed on Jesus, they walk in faith and in love encouraging others and helping to pass a legacy of faith (Ephesians 5:2; Hebrews 12:1-2).

eXpectant

With great anticipation, they are looking forward to that day when they will receive their final rewards, see their loved ones in Heaven, and come face-to-face with Jesus (Colossians 3:24; 1 Corinthians 13:12).

YEARNING

They yearn for a deep and intimate relationship with God, for fellowship with other believers, for the salvation of those who are lost, and for the future God has promised them (Psalm 42:2; Philippians 1:21-23).

ZEALOUS

While their physical zeal may be waning, their spiritual zeal is unhindered and far greater than it was when they first came to know Christ. Zealous for knowing God and doing His will, their zeal is contagious, affecting those around them (Romans 12:11; Psalm 119:139).

Personal Reflection
