



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

FOLLOW THROUGH

(FINISHING WELL, 5 Keys of Power Part 6)

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In golf, basketball and other sports, "follow through" refers to a continued action even after the ball has been struck or thrown. Similarly, in life we may experience troubles along the way, but there should be a follow through. When we started to believe in our Lord Jesus Christ and received the Holy Spirit, we have already commenced a spiritual journey. However, we should finish the "race" of life well to be transformed into His image and likeness.

1. Receiving the Holy Spirit is just the beginning.

1.1 *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes ...my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth"* (Acts 1:8)

1.2 Some Christians think that when they receive a miracle that is the end point. On the other hand, God sends us miracles and the Holy Spirit for a purpose: to glorify God and to be His witnesses.

1.3 Starting things is easy. It is the journey that matters.

2. Anybody can start something. It is another matter to finish something, and to finish it well.

2.1 Our God is perfect, a God of Excellence. He deserves only the best. Haphazard work/service does not glorify Him. Therefore, when we serve Him, we must do our best and finish it well.

2.2 A whole generation of Israelites was not able to enter the Promised Land despite God's protection and miracles because they kept on complaining and disbelieving (Exo. 14-15). Hence, they failed to finish well.

3. We should know how to finish well.

3.1 We should decide to finish well and commit to it. Our Christian life requires a determined spiritual commitment. When we make a promise to God, we should not delay its

fulfillment, for "God has no pleasure in fools" (Ecclesiastes 5:3).

St. Paul did not start well. In fact, he was a persecutor of Christians. However, when He believed In Jesus, he was determined to give his life for Him and he finished well (2 Timothy 4:7).

3.2 We should focus as we run the race. We should learn to "fix our eyes on Jesus who is the author and perfecter of faith (Heb. 12: 2).

3.3 We should persevere and be patient. Perseverance is important because God did not promise us an easy and comfortable life. We may sometimes fall (afraid, discouraged or sinful) and commit mistakes. We must, therefore, learn to get up and keep going.

4 When we finish well, we await a reward.

4.1. The Lord, our judge, rewards us the "crown of righteousness if we have longed to wait to see his appearance" (Timothy 4:8). Our final reward is in heaven.

4.2 Little by little, we develop the characteristics of a transformed life as we go through our spiritual journey faithfully.

4.3 We are rewarded with a joyful, peaceful and fulfilled life when we finish well.

CONCLUSION:

A great start does not mean a great finish. In the same way, a rough start does not mean an unfortunate finish. No matter how we start our journey, it is never too late to finish well. Let us fight the good fight of faith!

REFLECTION:

1. What have you started, but did not finish? Why?
2. Have you ever come close to the end of a project and did less than your best just to be able to call it finished?

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