

## **2 Timothy 4:6-8 – February 7th, 2021**

### ***Are We There Yet?***

**JD Farag**

Good morning and welcome to our second service. On Sunday mornings we have two services, the first of which is our Bible Prophecy Update that we do weekly and livestream and then second service, which is our verse-by-verse study through the Bible, book-by-book, chapter-by-chapter verse-by-verse.

We are currently in the Book of 2 Timothy and our text today is going to be 2 Timothy Chapter 4:6-8. We'll invite you at this time to join us and turn there. And while you're doing that, I just want to take a moment to talk just a little bit about the prophecy update and the livestream.

I want to address the issues that we've had at our JDFarag.org website, the technical glitches and hiccups. We know that many are frustrated with us, some or even angry at us. We would just kindly and humbly ask that instead you please, please pray for us. You've got to know that the enemy does not want the Prophecy Updates in particular getting out, and as such, the spiritual warfare is off the charts in its intensity. So we covet your prayers in that regard.

We have an amazing team, and they're working tirelessly and diligently to get the site to the place where all the features are accessible, just simple, plug-and-pray, as I like to say. So please pray specifically for our efforts to provide closed captioning.

We know that's a big issue, especially for the hearing impaired. We're working on that, we're asking for prayer for that, also the downloading and sharing capabilities, TV broadcasting. There's a number of online members that are actually having home fellowships and Bible studies and home church and use the TV with the updates and the teaching. So we're getting there, we're getting there; we appreciate your patience with us.

We're also hoping, Lord willing, to migrate all of the archived teachings to the new site so you'll have those and then also even the transcripts. And I'm kind of chuckling because we've had a number of requests for us to have this feature on the new website like on YouTube, where you can actually speed it up. I'm going to take that personally because what that means is I'm talking too slow, I guess.

So I guess there's a number of you that speed it up 1.5, 2 times faster to get through it faster, I guess; I don't know. So I just want you to know that our team is actually working on that just for you, so whatever.

All right, we're going to continue livestreaming. This is just the updates. Now, the Thursday night Bible study and the Sunday morning second Service sermon are going to be livestreamed and on YouTube and Facebook in their entirety. We're talking about only the Prophecy Update. It's only going to be the introduction to and explanation of the Prophecy Update before we end the livestream with the hopes that you'll go to JDFarag.org, especially for those of you that are new subscribers.

Actually would encourage you to make that the go-to from the start. That way you can watch the Prophecy Updates in their entirety without any interruption and the conclusion of the complete, uncensored update.

## 2 Timothy 4:6-8 – February 7th, 2021

### *Are We There Yet?*

JD Farag

Lord willing, we intend to remain on YouTube and the other social media platforms as long as we can to reach us many as we can. But we do see the handwriting on the wall. Right now it's the censoring of the Prophecy Updates, but it could very likely be very soon the censoring of any Bible teaching at all. So we're ready for that, but we're going to stay on there as long as we can. So thank you very much for your patience again.

Let's get into the Word. 2 Timothy Chapter 4, we'll begin in verse 6 and we'll get through to verse 8. We left off last week in verse 5. So if I might trouble you to stand if you're able, you can follow along as I read. If not where you're seated, is fine. Those of you online can follow along as well.

The Apostle Paul is writing to Timothy and by the Holy Spirit in verse 6 says, "For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me, the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for His appearing."

Oh, let's pray. Chicken skin, huh?

Lord, thank You so much. Ah, this I know is a familiar passage to many, a friend even to many, and such an encouragement as well. Lord, even now as we have our Bibles open to receive from You as You speak into our lives in and through this portion that we have open before us today in Your Word, we also want You to be met with eyes to see and ears to hear and hearts to receive that which the Spirit is saying to us, Your church. We have ears to hear, Lord. So speak; Your servants are listening, in Jesus' name, Amen and Amen.

You can be seated, thank you. So what I want to talk with you about today is this sense that many Christians have concerning just how close we are to the rapture of the church. You know, I was thinking this last week in preparing to teach this passage that it's that childlike anticipation.

You know that young child sitting in the back seat? Are we there yet? No, not yet. Are we close? Are we there yet? Are we there yet? No. Three seconds later: Are we there yet? No, you just asked me that three seconds ago; we're not, we're not there yet. But it's the childlike excitement and anticipation of a young child repeatedly asking, "Are we there yet?"

I have to confess that I've really been looking forward to this text. Again, I know it's a favorite to many, a friend really to many, and an encouragement, a source of great encouragement because of the anticipation that's woven into the fabric of this passage.

To me, I truly believe that especially with everything that's happening in the world today many Christians in that childlike anticipation are asking, "oh Lord, are we there yet?" "It's getting really bad, Lord, come quickly."

## 2 Timothy 4:6-8 – February 7th, 2021

### *Are We There Yet?*

JD Farag

After inquiring of the Lord as to how He would have me to teach this text, it became clear that it was to be a message of hope. If there was ever a time, especially as God's people that we need to have that hope, that time is now.

And really it's more of a "how" in terms of that hope. "How" it is and even "what" it is that we, as Christians, can do as we long for, yearn for, watch for, wait for, and are so ready for our own departure.

So what follows are what I'll refer to as "The Big Three," for lack of a better way to describe them, when it comes to pressing on until we arrive at our departure for our final destination in the rapture of the church.

The first ones in verse 6, and it's keep the pedal to the metal. You'll forgive the auto metaphor. What the Apostle Paul is saying here is very interesting and this for several reasons, chief of which is his reference to this "being poured out like a drink offering."

What's a drink offering? Oh, we see it in the Old Testament. It was a drink offering of wine that was poured out on the burnt offering. And the burnt offering was a sacrifice and it was for complete consecration to the Lord.

And as the burnt offering was being offered to the Lord, the priest would take the drink offering and they would pour the drink offering on the burnt offering, and that drink offering would literally evaporate. That's what Paul's saying. I am completely consecrated to the Lord, completely poured out for the Lord.

Can I say it like this: completely sold out for the Lord, nothing held back? And that's what he's referencing here, such that he's all-consumed by the Lord as a consecration to the Lord. Dare I say that we're living in a day where there's no holding back?

That is the worst thing that we could do at this point. So it's full steam ahead, and this is what Paul is saying. It's been that way my whole life, my whole ministry, complete surrender to, sacrifice for the Lord and the Lord alone.

As Oswald Chambers would write in his very well-known devotional, reckless abandon, "My Utmost for His Highest," all of me, Lord, take all of me. I'm that drink offering completely poured out for You. Do with me as You please.

Now here's the thing: Paul is at the end of his life and he knows it, and he knows it's just a matter of time before his departure. It's going to be, some believe, just really a matter of days, possibly weeks after he had penned this letter to Timothy that he would be beheaded and martyred for his faith in Jesus Christ.

He even references it, as we're going to see later on in the chapter. The trial is not going so well for him because see in that day there would be these witnesses that would give testimony, and when it came time for those witnesses to testify on Paul's behalf, they weren't

## 2 Timothy 4:6-8 – February 7th, 2021

### *Are We There Yet?*

JD Farag

there. He stood alone, and he knew that the trial was not going well and that this is how it would end.

He's making a reference to his departure, and that's an interesting word in the original language, carries with it the idea of taking up anchor or taking down the tent. It's a releasing an evaporating, again in reference to the drink offering. Paul knows that it's just a matter of time before his departure.

But here's the thing: He's finished well, no regrets. You know what as a pastor I think about often? I think about on that great and final day when the Lord says to me, "Well done, good and faithful servant," that there will have been anything in my life and in my ministry as a pastor that could be said of me, well, you kind of played it safe there. You kind of held back there. It really wasn't pedal to the metal. You kind of lifted your spiritually foot off the pedal of ministry, as it were.

Barry Meguiar, who we've had the privilege of having come and speak here, the car guy, quintessential car guy, and he told me once about something in the car racing world that really stuck with me. He said there's this phrase that says, "never lift, never lift." And what that means is you're in this race and you've got your foot on the pedal and out of fear you lift your foot off the pedal. And what happens is it costs you the race.

What a great example of the Christian life. It's full steam ahead. It's full speed ahead. Let me take it a step further and suggest that it's been my own personal experience as I've seen what God has done over the years in my life that God is searching to and fro throughout the earth.

Like He would speak to King Asa through the Prophet, "Don't you know, 2 Chronicles 16:9, that the eyes of the Lord are searching to and fro throughout the earth?" What's God looking for? Oh, He's looking for those who have a heart fully devoted to Him, pedal to the metal for Him, full speed ahead for Him.

And when he finds one, you know what He does? He is strong on their behalf. And it's like you say, "Lord, here am I, send me," as Isaiah the prophet would say. And when God finds such a one, it's like all right, watch Me now, watch what I'm going to do. Oh, I'm going to do it. You're not going to do it. You see, you're fully devoted to Me, fully dependent upon Me, fully reliant upon Me, not your own strength. And that's when I'm able to do anything if you'll just let Me.

And oh, by the way, that's just the first part of it. You need to let Me, and then once you let Me, you need to stay out of My way. I don't need your help. Oh, it's so adorable, isn't it, when our children want to help us when they're young?

I remember when our boys were young, "Baba Baba, can I help?" I'm like, so adorable, okay, fine. But I know that it's going to take me six or seven additional hours to do that which I could have done in 30 minutes without their help, but they're so adorable. Just let me help.

## 2 Timothy 4:6-8 – February 7th, 2021

### *Are We There Yet?*

JD Farag

We do that with the Lord, right? Like we can help Him out? It's kind of one of these things: "You want to help Me? Don't help me. That will help me a lot."

You know that hymn of old that's really one of my favorite hymns, "Have Thine Own Way, Lord." Have Thine own way. Thou art the potter. I am the clay. I love that hymn. Mold me and make me while I'm yielded and still. Okay, that's a problem.

"I have to be still?"

"Yeah."

"You're going to have Your own way?"

"Yeah."

"Well, what about?"

"No, don't get in My way. Stay out of My way."

You know, I have to say that, and I shared this one time at a pastor's fellowship. We're just kind of going around, talking about, you know, what God's doing in our ministries.

And when it got to me, I'm like, "Lord, I really, there's only really one thing that I can share and that is that I've actually begin to learn how to just stay out of Your way and just let You do what You want to do and not try to, you know, offer in the flesh that what You're doing in the Spirit. I'm not going to try to help You out.

Lord, this is Your church. Jesus, You died for that, I didn't die for this church, Your people. My blood wasn't shed for them. This is your church. I have no right to impose my own will, my own ways on this, Your church. So Lord, have it Your way.

Does that sound like a burger commercial? It probably does.

Here's the second one. It's in verse 7. In addition to keep in the pedal to the metal, keep fighting to the finish. Here, Paul uses the analogy of a fighter and a runner, and he does this often in his letters, right? Only this time it's more in the past tense because he's just about to cross the finish line.

For Paul, it's the last seconds in the final round of the fight and it's the final feet in the race, and he is giving it his all. You know, runners: you see them leaning into the finish line, the tape to be the first one.

That's what Paul's doing. I mean, it's just that homestretch, if you will. And you just turn it on and pour it in, and I mean, you're all in to the end. That's what Paul did.

Now I realize this verse is a well-known and often-quoted passage of Scripture. There's many a time where, in doing a memorial service, I'm asked to talk about this passage of Scripture for the one that has gone

## 2 Timothy 4:6-8 – February 7th, 2021

### *Are We There Yet?*

JD Farag

home to be with the Lord. But the fact remains that this is what the Christian life is. Stay with me. It's a fight. It's a battle. It's a brutal fight and it's a grueling race.

I like how one said it: Paul didn't say, "I've danced a good dance." No, I fought, fought daily; it is a fight. It is a battle. This is a battleground, this Christian life, not a playground.

Sadly, many a Christian; I don't want to beat up on anybody. This isn't a condemnation, but maybe a much-needed conviction instead from the Holy Spirit. But many Christians just play church. It's just a game. They don't take it seriously. No, this is serious.

For those of you that were here for the Prophecy Update, can I have a show of hands? How many of you were here, for the...? Wow you lived to tell about it? That's great, and you stuck around, wow!

Can I just ask you, very -- I mean, I know it's a rhetorical question, but it's a sincere one. Is it getting real or what? Is this getting real or what? I mean, it's game on, if I can say it like that. It's getting serious and it's getting real, and this is no time to play around. There's no time.

You know, there may have been a time, I suppose, in all fairness, where the world in which we live was more forgiving of the Christian just kind of playing around, playing church. That time does not exist and that world does not exist any longer, and it will never return, by the way. It'll never happen. The Christian life is a brutal fight and a grueling race.

And that brings us to the third one that I want to spend the remainder of our time on because it is so important. You're keeping the pedal to the metal, keep fighting to the finish, and you keep your eyes on the prize. I don't know if it's possible to overstate the importance of what Paul says when he refers to this crown of righteousness that awaits him.

By the way, let me parenthetically say this is very important, don't miss this. Notice he specifies in reference to the judge as the righteous Judge. The inference is, is that there are unrighteous judges who do not make just judgments.

What Paul is saying is that God is a just judge. He is fair, just, and righteous in His judgments. And everyone will be recompensed according to that which they did. What we do now matters for eternity. I'm going somewhere with this; I really need you to stay with me because it is hugely important.

Do you realize that what we do here on earth matters for all of eternity? So what's our lifespan? Let's just say, absent the rapture, it's three score and 10, 70 years, maybe longer. But let's just use that for purpose of discussion. 70 years, the majority of which we determine our entire eternity. So what we do here matters for all eternity.

## 2 Timothy 4:6-8 – February 7th, 2021

### *Are We There Yet?*

JD Farag

I was having a conversation with my son who's back in college in California. And it was a really good conversation because we were talking about you know, what he's doing. You know, he's studying hard. We're so proud of him. But he knows the rapture could happen any time.

So the question becomes, well, what's the point, why am I, why am I doing this? No, there's a reason why you're doing this because what you're doing now matters for eternity.

Yeah, but I'm just a student. No, no, no, I want you to think about this. This is where I'm going with this. Things that you might deem insignificant here in this life God is preparing you for eternal life. What? Wait a minute.

So I don't have to be a pastor? No, in fact, "mo' betta" you're not. Because pastors are judged by a much higher standard.

So what are you saying? What I'm saying is, is that God -- you know, what do you think we're going to be doing for all eternity? Do you know that we're going to be working? You know that work was blessed before the curse? Work was blessed before the curse. We're going to be working. Oh, not by the sweat of our brow. It is going to be a "get to" not a "got to" when we're in heaven.

And we are all uniquely made in His image, for His glory, for His kingdom, forever and ever, Amen. And everything you do here on earth is going to determine what you do for eternity.

So it's like, you mean I'm going to be a student in college for all of eternity? No, that's not what I'm talking about. I'm talking about the talents, the giftings that you have are such that they're going to matter for all eternity.

Yeah, but I'm, I'm not, you know, a pastor, I'm not an evangelist, I'm not serving in full-time ministry, which, by the way, is a misnomer. There's no such thing as full-time or part-time ministry. It's lifetime ministry, and we're all in the ministry. We're all in the ministry. It's the priesthood of believers.

Did you realize that? You're in the ministry! Yeah, I'm just sitting here on this comfortable chair. Thank you very much, by the way, for the nice, comfortable chairs and AC. But, yeah, but you're still in the ministry. God wants to use you, and God will use you if you'll let Him.

Now, I want to kind of turn the corner here, if you don't mind, and talk about how it is that not only is looking forward to the rewards that await us, not only is that okay, it's mandatory, and I'll explain what I mean by that. There's nothing wrong, you know we always want to kind of couch it in noble terms, "Well, I'm just serving the Lord, you know."

There's nothing wrong with saying, "Hey, I've got some crowns, baby!" "I've got some rewards awaiting me, I've got treasures in heaven, man." Oh, that's what you're doing it for?

## 2 Timothy 4:6-8 – February 7th, 2021

### *Are We There Yet?*

JD Farag

Come on, this is the Apostle Paul we're talking about here, and he's talking about this crown of righteous. It's not our own righteousness. As Isaiah says, our own righteousness is as filthy rags. This is Christ's imputed righteousness. And that's what he's waiting for and looking to, and I would suggest that it's the one who does not have their eyes on the prize that will not finish well, if it all.

It's because I know that's what awaits me and it keeps me going. It keeps me going. Keep your eyes on the prize. Don't look at that, don't look at this, don't be derailed by that.

You know, when I learned this and this is crazy. I just thought of this; maybe this is the Holy Spirit. You know the relay races? You know, for those of you that run and I never did this, of course, I just sat on the bleachers in Jesus' name. But you know the relay race that where they pass the baton, right?

Okay. I heard the coach say to the runners, when you start up, when they're coming, when they're approaching and they're going to put the baton in your hand, don't look back because if you take your eyes off of where you're going, and you look back, it's going to cost you the race. At best, you slow down.

What's the application here? Well, dare I say we, instead of keeping our eyes on the prize, we keep our eyes on the other guys. That rhymed, I know. Well, I'm looking at these guys over here, I'm looking at -- sorry if I pointed over here, not you guys, but you know what I'm saying. I'm looking at someone else's ministry. I'm looking at what they're doing and I got my eyes off the Lord.

It's probably one of the, dorkiest sayings, but it is so true: "If your eyes are on others, you're distressed. If your eyes are on yourself, you're depressed. And if your eyes are on the Lord, you're blessed." How true is that? And that's what the Lord's saying, just you keep your eyes on Me. Don't look at them. Don't compare yourself with them.

When Peter tried to do that concerning John, he's like, "Lord, what's up with this?" "John, You just told John that." And Jesus -- I never imagine Jesus being harsh in His tone. He just very gently, "Hey Peter, what's that to you? What's that to you?" In other words, none of your business. Why are you looking at him? Just look at Me. Keep your eyes on Me.

Isaiah would say it this way, "He whose mind is stayed on Thee will be kept in perfect peace, perfect peace."

When I think about how whatever treasures I've laid up in heaven, Matthew Chapter 6, by the way, I think about the crown that awaits. Because by the way, this is not just for the Apostle Paul because he's very explicit and very clear when he says, "Timothy, this crown of righteousness that awaits me from the righteous Judge it's not just for me, but it's for all who long for His appearing."

That's me! Long? I can't wait! I mean, I ache, I yearn for His appearing. Now I point this out because again, this is a must. I



## **2 Timothy 4:6-8 – February 7th, 2021**

### ***Are We There Yet?***

**JD Farag**

don't know how else to say it. Maybe there's a stronger way to say it, but this is an absolute must.

If we ever hope to, like the Apostle Paul, say, "I have fought the fight, I have finished the race, I am that drink offering completely poured out. Nothing held back for Him. And now in my departure / rapture, oh, the crown, the rewards that await me."

If we are to have any hope, we absolutely must keep our eyes on the prize because that's what's going to get us through. And I'll even take it a step further and suggest before we close that in the days and weeks ahead, as it would seem it is very likely the propensity for things to get infinitely worse than they are right now. If we're to have any hope of getting through that, we better keep our eyes on the Lord. That's the only way.

I want to close with 1 Corinthians Chapter 9:24-27. Here now the Apostle Paul, earlier in his ministry and in his life, is writing to the Corinthian church in his first epistle. And he really expounds on this metaphor of running the race, finishing the race.

He says, verse 24, "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize?" It is believed that Paul is referencing in that day what we know today as the Olympics. And they would have the competitors, the athletes in these games that would run, and then they would have the judges that would give them that wreath. You know that you see the, you know, in that culture, in that day, a wreath on their head? That was their crown. It's like buying flowers. It lasts for like, four days, and then that's it, and Paul's going to actually reference that.

But that's what they're running for. That's the award that awaits the winner. So in our modern-day Olympic Games which have their origin in that, you have the panel of judges, and this, by the way, is the Bema Seat, not the White Throne Judgment. This is the judgment seat of Christ. It's not to judge us and penalize us and punish us, it's to reward us like in the Olympics, and He's a righteous judge.

Sometimes those judges, uh, maybe they got paid under the table. So the guy who really should have won didn't win, unjust, unrighteous. So here's the judge, the righteous judge that is at this judgment waiting to give us the gold medal, as it were. That's the judge, that's the prize.

So Paul is likening the Christian life to running this race, which again that's what a race is. A race has runners. But... you knew the "but" was coming, right? Only one gets the prize.

What's his point? His point is this. Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training, and they do it to get this measly, I'm of course adding some, you know, wreath of a crown, this leaf of a crown that will not last. But we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

Well, that's kind of a game-changer, isn't it? In other words, Paul is comparing the Christian life, and he said, "Look at these guys." Do

## 2 Timothy 4:6-8 – February 7th, 2021

### *Are We There Yet?*

JD Farag

you know the deprecation, the deprivation; I meant deprivation, did I say deprecation? That's a different topic for another time.

Deprivation in the strict training; they deprive themselves, and they go into this strict disciplined training. For what? A leaf. A crown with leaves on it that doesn't last? And if they're willing to do that for that, wouldn't it stand to reason that we would be willing to do at least that, if not more, for a crown that lasts, for all eternity?

And the way we run the race of the Christian life will determine that crown, and it will last forever. You know how long forever is? I know this is deeply profound. It's forever and ever and ever.

Just trying to wrap your mind around eternity, it's kind of like this: Talking about the 70 years in this life, as a lifespan. 70 trillion years! Wait, wait, wait, let's back up. Think about this: Try to count to even 7000, just 7000.

Maybe even back it up more. Try to count to 700. (Yawns) Oh, I lose interest about 248. That's 700. We're talking about 70 years. Now try to wrap your mind around eternity. There's no time. There's no measurement of time. A trillion years but a second in terms of the time that we live in.

Man, if I'm not mistaken, shouldn't just knowing that change the way I live my life? As brief as my life is, as James refers to it, but a vapor, like that drink offering that, it's a vapor, just (poof) gone.

That's your life here on Earth in comparison to eternity. It's been said that, "Soon one life will be passed, and only that which was done for Christ will last." It's kind of sobering, isn't it?

So he goes on, he says, "Therefore I do not run, verse 26, like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave, so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize." Now that's kind of hard.

What's he saying? He's saying that if runners in a race will do that to themselves, deprive that from themselves, beat their body into submission to run this race for a temporal crown, how much more should I discipline myself, go into strict training, and run this race for a crown that last forever? Eyes on the prize, knowing what I have to look forward to makes whatever I'm going through easier to get through when my eyes were on Him, my eyes are on eternity, I'm heavenly-minded.

I think it was Mark Twain; I don't think it was, I know it was, and I totally disagree with this very well-known saying of his. He said that you could become so heavenly-minded you're of no earthly good. I think the opposite is true. I think the more heavenly-minded you are the more earthly good you'll do. Is it not the ones who are not heavenly-minded, that are doing nothing here in this life? They need to be more heavenly-minded.

## **2 Timothy 4:6-8 – February 7th, 2021**

### ***Are We There Yet?***

**JD Farag**

Let me just, and this would be the last, my final closing, okay. I haven't said "last thing" yet, so we're almost done. I want you to think this through with me, please.

What if you knew --no man knows the day or the hour -- this is a total hypothetical, but I want you to listen to me. What if you knew that you had a week and one day left in your life? One week and... what would you do?

Oh, wait! First, let me just recover from the shock that I've got a week and one day left. Are you kidding me? No, you've got one week, and one day; what are you going to do?

First of all, I'll make sure my life insurance is updated and then I'm going to get my affairs in order. And then I'm going to call so-and-so, and I'm going to... Well, then the question needs to be asked: Why aren't you doing that now? Oh, I thought I had more time. Oh, really?

That's not what Paul's describing here. There is no more time. That trumpet could sound at any time. There is nothing that has to happen before the rapture happens. And I don't mean to be morbid, but it's the truth. It is also very possible that one's death could precede the rapture, and it's game-over.

So how are you going to live your life? How are you going to live your life? Pedal to the Metal, Full Steam Ahead, Fight to the Finish, Eyes on the Prize.

I want it said of me that I did that. I want to, like Paul say, "I finished the race, I fought the fight, man! I did it, I did it! I crossed the finish line! Where's my crown? Don't be giving me one of those leaf things, yeah, where's my crown, my eternal crown?" "Oh, it's right here; well done, good and faithful servant."

Why don't you stand and we'll pray. Thank You, Lord. Father in heaven we're so in awe of You! Lord, thank You first and foremost for the gift of eternal life that is ours in Christ Jesus and the awards that await, the crowns that are ours, Lord.

Please, Lord, I pray that the Holy Spirit today was given unfettered access to that deep recess in our hearts to see if there be anything at all that would keep us from finishing well, running this race, fighting this fight, in Jesus' name, Amen.