



## THE SUMMIT PART 3: CLIMBING WITH ETERNITY IN MIND

Most of us love a story that ends at the summit. We like the finish line, the medal, the picture, and the clean testimony where everything comes together. But life does not always give us that kind of ending. Sometimes we train and still do not finish. Sometimes we pray and still do not get the answer we hoped for. Sometimes we give our best and still come up short.

In this message, we are reminded that God does not only work when we reach the summit. God works in the climb. The training still counts. The discipline still counts. The humility, endurance, prayer, disappointment, and growth still count. An unfinished climb does not mean a wasted journey.

**BIG IDEA:** God is trying to make us faithful not just successful.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever worked hard toward a goal but did not get the outcome you hoped for? How did that affect you emotionally, mentally, or spiritually?
2. The message said, “I did not complete the event, but the training completed something in me.” What do you think that means? Where have you seen God use a process, even when the outcome was disappointing?
3. Shame often says, “You failed,” “You wasted your time,” or “You might as well quit.” Which of those lies are you most tempted to believe when something does not go the way you hoped?
4. Read **Philippians 3:12–14**. Paul admits he has not arrived yet, but he keeps pressing on. What does this passage teach us about moving forward after disappointment?
5. Read **2 Timothy 4:7**. Paul says, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful.” How is faithfulness different from success as the world usually defines it?
6. Pastor Jimmy said, “There is a difference between not finishing and being finished.” How does that truth speak to an unfinished climb in your life right now?
7. Read **Hebrews 12:1–2**. What are some things that can distract us from fixing our eyes on Jesus when we are disappointed, ashamed, or comparing our journey to someone else’s?
8. Where do you need to “press on” right now? Does pressing on mean trying again, healing, asking for help, forgiving yourself, laying down shame, or trusting God with what did not happen?

### MOVING FORWARD

This week, bring one unfinished climb before God honestly. Do not pretend it did not hurt. Do not minimize the disappointment. But also, do not let shame have the final word.

Ask God to show you what He formed in you through the process. What discipline did He build? What humility did He teach? What endurance did He grow? What dependence on Him did He deepen?

The summit may not have happened the way you hoped, but the training still counted. Keep pressing on. Keep following Jesus. Keep climbing.

### CHANGING YOUR MIND

I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us. **Philippians 3:14 NLT**