

# CHAPTER 12: FINISHING WELL AS FAITHFUL STEWARDS

## DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY PROGRAM-PIPES INTERNATIONAL

### CHAPTER TWELVE: FINISHING WELL.

Read: **2 Timothy 4:6-8, 2 Timothy 3:2-6**

2 Timothy 4:7 “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith.”

A faithful steward is one who is faithfully managing whatever is entrusted to his care. He is aware that he has limited time and must use it to fulfill his God-ordained purpose.

#### **LESSON 1: FINISHING WELL: (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)**

We are all in a race, and each of us must run according to the rules of this race to get the crown laid down for us. If one does not follow the laid down rules, they are disqualified. An Athlete does not put on heavy clothing in a race. Instead, he sheds off the heavy clothes and runs light. Likewise, in our Christian race, we must learn to crucify the flesh and bring our bodies and our desires under the control and subjection of the Holy Spirit. It is expected of us to fulfill our God-ordained purpose on earth.

In his Christian race, Paul faced much opposition. Still, all these challenges and oppositions did not deter his resolve to run the race marked for him with patience and perseverance, fixing his eyes on Jesus. Paul evangelized even when in chains and in prison. He fulfilled his God-given purpose preaching publicly and from house to house. (Acts 20:18-24).

## **.Discuss:**

- 1. As you are running the race of faith, what inspires you to persevere?**
- 2. How are you fulfilling your God-given purpose in your life?**

## **LESSON 2: CHARACTERS WHO FINISHED WELL AND THOSE WHO FAILED**

### **Those who finished well**

**Paul** – Although he faced many challenges in his life, he did not allow them to distract him from running the race and finishing well (2 Timothy 4:7).

**Jesus** – He knew he had a mission to accomplish and set his eyes on accomplishing it. (Luke 19: 10 says, for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

### **Those who failed**

**Solomon** - God chose him to be king of Israel after the death of his father, David. He started well, but he married many wives from the heathen tribes who turned his heart away from the Lord. 1 King 3:3 and 1 Kings 11:1-11. King Solomon is a tragic, biblical example of someone who started right but did not finish well.

**Samson** – Chosen as a Nazarite in his mother’s womb. He had a weakness for women, which led to him losing his God-given anointing and power.

## **Discuss**

- 1. Characteristics of those who finished well**
- 2. The characteristics of those who did not finish well**
- 3. Compare the last words of Paul with those of King David (2 Samuel 23), Moses (Deut. 33), the dying thief (Luke 23: 40-43) ) and Stephen (Acts 7).**

## LESSON 3: FOUR POTENTIAL DANGERS

There is potential or possibility of exposing oneself to spiritual dangers and ungodliness.

**We have highlighted four among others**

a. Money - Love of money, riches. 1 Timothy 6:10, 2 Timothy 3:2

b. Immorality - Engaging in sex outside marriage. (Ephesians 5:3)

c. Power - authority, influence over others, control. Abuse of power has severe consequences for a leader.

d. Pride - High opinion of one's own dignity whether cherished in mind or displayed in conduct. (Proverbs 16:18)

**Discuss:**

Explain how money, sex, power, and pride are a potential danger to any Christian.

## LESSON 4: THREE ASPECTS OF STEWARDSHIP

1. **TIME:** We are expected to be faithful managers of the 24hrs that God has given to each one of us. You manage your time by organizing and allocating time to the specific activities of the day as you prioritize the most urgent ones.
2. **TALENTS:** Talents are our natural or God-given abilities to enable us to work effectively as stewards in God's God's vineyard. God expects us to use our talents to bear fruit. (Matthew 25:14-30).
3. **TREASURE:** Is wealth or riches of any kind. God has given us a treasure to support our families and to propagate the kingdom of God.

### Discussion

1. Mention some activities that you consider time wasters. How can you avoid such activities and improve on your time management?
2. Name some of the ways you can use your time, talent, and treasure to further the kingdom of God.

### CONCLUSION

It is important to note that finishing well as a faithful steward is the only way to be rewarded. According to Paul in 11 Timothy 4:7, he ran the race faithfully, stayed on course, and finished the race, and he received a crown of glory from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Jesus finished well, and He is seated at the right hand of God, making intercession for us. Let us run this race in perseverance, fixing our eyes on Jesus.