



## Guest Speaker - Lee McBride

July 30, 2023

2 Timothy 4:6,7 "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.**"

- The Apostle Paul is just a few days away from his execution, so the words he speaks here are some of the most important to him... and to us!
- Paul knows suffering.

### "I have fought the good fight":

- You will have to contend/fight for your faith; not in a mean-spirited way, not looking for a fight, but fighting to keep your faith.
  - You will need **3 types of people** in your life to keep your faith:
    1. **Trainer:** loves, stretches, and pushes you; tells truth in love; keeps you humble
    2. **Sparring Partner:** in the fight with you; there's a gap in the kingdom for true godly friends. You can't wait for someone to come to you...YOU need to OFFER to be sparring partners with other people. Quit waiting for someone to stumble into your life; wake up looking for someone to share the light of Jesus with and then you are creating your own sparring partners.
    3. **Cut Man:** does what's necessary to keep you in the fight; will not let you quit; they know what to do when you really want to quit on your faith.
- Do you need a trainer? A sparring partner? A cut-man? What is the difference between these types of people?
- What will you do to get one of these in your life? (Notice he said don't wait for someone...go find them.)

### "I have finished the race":

- Cliff Young- 61 years old; won the longest foot race in the world (577 miles) and won by 6 hours doing the "Cliff Young Shuffle".

- Paul didn't say he WON the race, he said he FINISHED the race. He wasn't comparing himself; he threw off things holding him down, dodged the things tripping him up, and FINISHED.
- Failure vs Temptation: learn what's not a temptation but a failure. If you fall for it every time, it is a failure and you need to DODGE it, AVOID IT. Eventually you can grow to the point you have overcome it.
- In the faith-race, we must remember we are running TOWARDS Someone, not against others.

- Are you focused on winning the race or finishing the race?

### **"I have kept THE faith":**

- Sometimes it takes only a small tweak to move from shuffling faith to defiant faith, and not a complete overhaul.
- The difference between "childISH" and "childLIKE" faith:
  - **Child-ISH** says "If I don't get my way, I will get mad, go home, and quit playing." Childish is mad at the Creator and Provider because something didn't go my way. I throw a tantrum. It is all about me.
  - **Child-LIKE** knows their "Pops" and is convinced of the truth that he NEVER lies to them and won't ever let them down.
- If your Defiant faith needs to go from "ish" to "like", there may be things that need to come out of your heart.

- What type of faith do you have? Childish or Childlike? How do you know?

- What things do you need to address in your heart?

- Do you know God like a "Pops" and KNOW that He will NEVER lie or let you down? If not, what needs to change for you to know Him this way?

Delayed obedience is disobedience.

You are overthinking and waiting for God to do something more, yet it's all been done. We have been given everything we need to live a defiant faith.

- What spoke to you today?

- What next steps is Holy Spirit telling you to make after listening to this message today?