

Starting Lines

Finish Strong

2 Tim. 4:1-8 NIV *In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: 2 Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage — with great patience and careful instruction. 3 For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. 5 But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. 6 For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 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.*

How to Finish Strong

Prepare for **"The Day"**.

v. 1 *In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge*

Demonstrate **commitment**.

v. 7 *"I have kept the faith"*

v. 2 *Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage — with great patience and careful instruction.*

Acts 20:24 *However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me--the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.*

Develop a **fighting spirit**.

v. 7 *"I have fought the good fight"*

A good fight means a **strong defense**.

v. 5 *"But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship"*.

2 Cor. 4:8-9 *"We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed"*

A good fight means a **strong offense**.

v. 5 *"do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.*

Resolve to **end well**.

v. 7 *"I have finished the race"*

Proverbs 24:16 (NIV) *for though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again, but the wicked stumble when calamity strikes.*

Proverbs 24:16 Message *No matter how many times you trip them up, God-loyal people don't stay down long; Soon they're up on their feet, while the wicked end up flat on their faces.*

Remember **the reward**.

v. 8 *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.*

Additional Study

Monday	John 17
Tuesday	Colossians 1:21-23
Wednesday	James 4:13-17
Thursday	I Timothy 6:11-20
Friday	Revelation 2:10-11, 3:13-14, 6:11-12