



FINISHING STRONG STEVE FARRAR

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STAYING THE COURSE [CHAPTER THREE]

BOOK REVIEW BY
JOHN OBI [26/02/2023]

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STAYING THE COURSE

- You need to stay the course in order to finish strong.
- That does not mean you will not encounter bumps along the path. 1 Corinthians 10:13 refers.
- Consider case of an impotent bull. After a visit by VET; it got better. We have a helper greater than the VET: the Holy Spirit.
- Finishing strong is the greatest legacy you can bequeath to your children as they follow your footprints.

STAYING THE COURSE [cont]

- **No man is perfect. But perfection is possible in line with Matthew 5:48. To attain, live in line with the Word of God; simple!**
- **To stay on course, one thing you need to bear in mind: Philippians 3:12-14. You need to press forward to what lies ahead; forgetting the past!**

A PERSONAL MISSION STATEMENT

- Perhaps at “middle age” of your life; you need to take stock on how you fared; and the way to manage the remaining years.
- The evaluation should be weighed against a standard for it to be meaningful. That standard is a Personal Mission Statement OR Your Creed Or Your Beliefs OR What You stand for.
- What are your values? Never compromise with honesty, hear both sides before judgement, plan tomorrow’s work today, keep a sense of humor, succeed at home first, etc

A PERSONAL MISSION STATEMENT [cont]

- The author had his mission statement: “Don’t Screw Up”. He anchored it on marriage, relationship with his kids and his integrity.
- Those who screw up are those who willfully and purposefully remove themselves from the protection of Jesus Christ. 2 Timothy 4:10 .. Demas loved the present world.
- Of the 12 spies that went to the Promised Land, 10 decided to fear men than God. They chose to step out under the protection of our Lord.

TWENTY-FOUR STABILIZING NAILS

- These are 24 characteristics of a godly man. Nails in this wise indicates you can hammer these into the character of your life.
- A man of knowledge, moved by faith, fired by love, loves God, worships God carefully, serves God & not man, prizes Christ, weeps, loves the Word, has spirit of God, humble, prayer warrior, sincere, heavenly, zealous, patient, thankful, loves the saints, avoids sin, good relationships, believes in spirituality, thoroughly trained in religion, walks with God, strives to make others godly.

TWENTY-FOUR STABILIZING NAILS [cont]

- This is enlarged version of fruit of the spirit as in Galatians 5:19-21.
- The conclusion here: those who finish strong are stayed upon Jehovah and they do 4 major things: They stay in ..., They stay close ..., They stay away ..., They stay alert ...
- Lesson: you can overcome the ambush of women/men, ambush of money and ambush of neglected family; if you imbibe the 4 principles.

STAY IN – The Scriptures

- **The first absolute requirement for finishing strong is to stay in the Word of God.**
- **Remember what God told Joshua in Joshua 1:8. Is it too difficult for you to devote at least 30 minutes daily, studying and meditating on the Scriptures?**
- **Are you too busy to study the Bible? Could you have been as busy as Joshua – who was saddled with the task of managing 2 million children of Israel; in addition to preparing and leading them to battles?**

STAY IN – The Scriptures [cont]

- **As you study scriptures, note those verses that jump out at you. Dig deeper and possibly memorize. Keep rehearsing from time to time; eventually it will stick to your memory.**
- **Use those verses in your daily walk with God; as occasion demands. That's staying in the scriptures, daily.**

STAY CLOSE ... To A Friend

- ▶ Stay close to a friend who can correct and guide you. You can start with your spouse. Proverbs 18:24.
- ▶ Another way the enemy can keep one from finishing strong is isolation. Remember, Hebrews 10:25 and Proverbs 27:17. **DO NOT BE A LONE RANGER!**
- ▶ Dr. James Houston observed: we need a friend to help us overcome low self-image, inflated self-importance, selfishness, pride, etc. Hebrews 3:12-13. **WE ALL NEED DAILY ENCOURAGEMENT.**

STAY CLOSE ... To A Friend

[cont]

- **Muhammed Ali [former Boxing champ] boarded a plane without fastening his seat belt. He told the attendant “Superman don’t need no seat belt”. Attendant responded, “Superman don’t need no plane”. Lesson: DON’T PLAY SUPERMAN IF YOU WANT TO FINISH STRONG”.**
- **The saying goes, ‘problem shared, is half solved’. Henry Drummond rightly said “The family circle is the supreme conductor of Christianity”.**

STAY AWAY ... From Other Women

- Don't be rude, disrespectful, cold or abrupt to opposite sex. But deliberately keep a distance from other women/men. Avoid any form of unholy alliance.
- Keep your distance both emotionally and physically. Again, play no superman!
- The greatest weapon in the armory of Satan, targeted at ensuring men do not finish strong is **SEXUAL IMMORALITY**. Avoid it like a plague.

STAY AWAY ... From Other Women [cont]

- A study in the US involving 3,500 men/women evangelicals revealed; 50.5% believed sexual intercourse should not be restricted to marriage.
- In another survey, 41% of men, admitted watching x-rated movies over past 12 months, regularly.
- To finish strong, note that your ministry begins at home. First responsibility is to your spouse, then your children.

STAY ALERT ... To The Tactics Of The Enemy

- Life is not on a cruise control. You must stay alert to schemes of the enemy. It is a war and the foe is smarter and wiser. Genesis 3:4-5.
- David Roper described Satan as a charming fella with immense power and thousands of years experience. His aim is to hurt God!
- Some of his leads: it won't hurt to sleep with this woman, falsifying my tax returns is smartness, etc.

STAY ALERT ... To The Tactics Of The Enemy [cont]

- **This is NO TIME TO BE ON SEDATIVES.** It is time to stay alert. Too many men started well, but failed to finish strong.
- **God will make us men whom lust/spoils of office will not derail.** Rather, we will remain men of honor that will not lie... Josiah Gilbert Holland.
- **To finish strong: Stay in... the Scriptures, Stay close ... to a friend, Stay away ... from other women, Stay alert ... to tactics of the enemy!**