

Finishing Strong

Psalm 92:12-15 [AMP] – *The righteous will flourish like the date palm [long-lived, upright and useful]; they will grow like a cedar in Lebanon [majestic and stable].* ¹³ *Planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God.* ¹⁴ *[Growing in grace] they will still thrive and bear fruit and prosper in old age; they will flourish and be vital and fresh [rich in trust and love and contentment];* ¹⁵ *[They are living memorials] to declare that the Lord is upright and faithful [to His promises]; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.*

- “God never ends anything on a negative; God always ends on a positive.” **Edwin Louis Cole**
- “Commitment is finishing what you started even when you don’t feel like doing it anymore.” **Bonnie Pfiester**

II Corinthians 8:11 – *“Now finish what you began, so that your eagerness to do so may be matched by your eagerness to complete it.”*

Abraham

Romans 4:16-25 [NASB] – *For this reason it is by faith, in order that it may be in accordance with grace, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all,* ¹⁷ *(as it is written, “A father of many nations have I made you”) in the presence of Him whom he believed, even God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist.* ¹⁸ *In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, “So shall your descendants be.”* ¹⁹ *Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah’s womb;* ²⁰ *yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew*

strong in faith, giving glory to God,²¹ and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform.²² Therefore it was also credited to him as righteousness.²³ Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him,²⁴ but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead,²⁵ He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.

Job

James 5:10, 11 [NCV] – *Brothers and sisters, follow the example of the prophets who spoke for the Lord. They suffered many hard things, but they were patient.¹¹ We say they are happy because they did not give up. You have heard about Job’s patience, and you know the Lord’s purpose for him in the end. You know the Lord is full of mercy and is kind.*

Patience – HUPOMENO; the characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith; steadfast waiting; consistently constant; related to HOPE; opposite of dependency or cowardice; related to trials, circumstances.

- **Don Clowers:** the ability to stand and wait or endure without complaining.
- **Vine’s:** the quality which does not surrender to circumstances or succumb under trial.

Job 42:10 – *And the Lord restored Job’s losses when he prayed for his friends. Indeed the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before.*

Joseph

Genesis 50:14-21 [NLT] – *After burying Jacob, Joseph returned to Egypt with his brothers and all who had accompanied him to his father’s burial.¹⁵ But now that their father was dead, Joseph’s brothers became fearful. “Now Joseph will show his anger and pay us back for*

all the wrong we did to him,” they said. ¹⁶ So they sent this message to Joseph: “Before your father died, he instructed us ¹⁷ to say to you: ‘Please forgive your brothers for the great wrong they did to you—for their sin in treating you so cruelly.’ So we, the servants of the God of your father, beg you to forgive our sin.” When Joseph received the message, he broke down and wept. ¹⁸ Then his brothers came and threw themselves down before Joseph. “Look, we are your slaves!” they said. ¹⁹ But Joseph replied, “Don’t be afraid of me. Am I God, that I can punish you? ²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people. ²¹ No, don’t be afraid. I will continue to take care of you and your children.” So he reassured them by speaking kindly to them.

Forgiveness – to send away; to give up a debt; to let go.

Supernatural Relationships [Ed Gungor] – “Many in the church fail to understand the true nature of forgiveness. Often it is viewed as a passive action taken by a person who is unwilling or unable to defend himself. But when you understand forgiveness, you realize that it is not a weak thing. When you choose to forgive, you are not overlooking the actions of people so they can continue to offend you without being held accountable. **Forgiveness is actually an aggressive force.**”

Forgiveness is a supernatural act.

Philippians 4:13 [AMP] – *I can do all things [which He has called me to do] through Him who strengthens and empowers me [to fulfill His purpose—I am self-sufficient in Christ’s sufficiency; I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him who infuses me with inner strength and confident peace.]*

- If you’re saying, “I can’t do it!” you’re trusting the wrong person!