

The Christian Arsenal

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HOW TO SUSTAIN SPIRITUAL MOMENTUM RUNNING THE AMAZING RACE

Dr. Ken Culver

We've had a great mountain experience in our church. And though we can't replicate what's happened in the last two months, we do want to sustain the momentum that has started in many of our lives.

TWO DANGERS:

- Some people's feelings and commitment only last as long as the emotion of the experience.
- When following gets hard, or when a crisis hits or some unexplained circumstance comes, rather than go on, they will choose to pick a seat on the sidelines.

The Christian life is not a 100 meter dash – it is a journey.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a large crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily hinders our progress. And let us run with endurance the race that God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from start to finish. He was willing to die a shameful death on the cross because of the joy he knew would be his afterward. Now he is seated in the place of highest honor beside God's throne in heaven." Hebrews 12:1-2 (NLT)

HOW DO I RUN THIS AMAZING RACE?

1. I WILL FIND STRENGTH FROM THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE.

The Bible is not: just a history book
meant to be a record of all that has happened in the past
meant to simply be moral teachings that we admire and
respect.

It is: for us.

"Even if it was written in Scripture long ago, you can be sure it's written for us."
Romans 15:4 (Msg)

[Erika: Insert Hebrews Chapter 11 – I will call out the verses that I need as I go]

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QUESTION: WHAT PERSON OF FAITH AND GODLINESS CAN STRENGTHEN MY WALK?

2. I WILL PUT OFF THAT WICH TRIPS ME UP.

- Let go of the ungodly.
- Let go of the unnecessary.

When you live a purpose-driven life, you no longer live for your own agenda, but you now live for God.

“Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs – he wants to please his commanding officer.” 2 Tim. 2:3-4 (NIV)

QUESTION: IN ORDER TO FINISH WELL, I NEED TO LET GO OF

3. I WILL HAVE TO CHOOSE TO PERSEVERE UNTIL I CROSS THAT FINISH LINE.

Definition of Greatness: “The ability to persevere and overcome obstacles.

Statements made about:

Fred Astaire: “can’t act, slightly bald, can dance a little”

Vince Lombardi: “possesses minimal football knowledge”

Enrico Caruso: “he has no voice at all”

Walt Disney: fired from a newspaper for lack of ideas

Thomas Edison: “he is too stupid to accomplish anything”

Henry Ford: went broke 5 times

Beethoven: “teacher called him hopeless as a composer”

Albert Einstein: Teachers encouraged parents to pull him out of school

In the race of life, God is far more interested in how we finish than how we begin.

Quote from Frederick Neitsche: “The essential thing in heaven and earth is that there is a long obedience in the same direction.”

Eugene Patterson: “There’s a great market for religious experience in our world, but there is little enthusiasm for the patient acquisition of character and virtue.”

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“Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that y our labor in the Lord is not in vain.” 1 Cor. 15:58 (NIV)

[Erika: Insert 2 Cor 11:24-28]

STATEMENT: COMING OUT OF 40 DAYS OF PURPOSE, I KNOW GOD WANTS ME TO KEEP ON _____.

4. I WILL KEEP A SINGLE-MINDED FOCUS

If through 40 Days of Purpose, you didn't come to love Jesus more, then we have failed. It was not intended to point you to W.C.C., or to point you to people, but rather to point you to Jesus Christ!

TRUTH NOT TO MISS:

If you're going to keep your focus on Jesus through this Christmas holiday season, you will have to make some time to be alone in His presence.

“What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ.” Phil 3:8 (NIV)

STATEMENT: IN ORDER TO STAY SINGLE-MINDED THROUGH CHRISTMAS I WILL _____.

5. I WILL ENDURE THE SUFFERING TO SEE THE SMILE.

When you're committed to living a purpose-driven life, you can endure difficulty and pain because you know this life is not all there is.

“These little troubles are getting us ready for an eternal glory that will make all our troubles seem like nothing.”

Look past the obstacle to the finish line and the joy that will be y ours.

“I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God through Christ Jesus, is calling us to heaven.” Phil 3:14 (NLT)

STATEMENT: I AM ABLE TO ENDURE THE PRESENT BECAUSE I KNOW SOMEDAY _____.

“Keep your mind on Jesus, who put up with many insults from sinners. Then you won't get discouraged and give up.” Heb. 12:3 (CEV)

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