



CHAPTER SIXTEEN
FINISHING STRONG

Good friends! As runners, we often focus on starting strong, setting goals, and pushing ourselves to achieve our best times. We put in the hard work, the training, the sweat, and the dedication to ensure that we cross the finish line with pride and satisfaction. But what about finishing strong? How do we ensure that we don't lose steam, and that we don't give up when the going gets tough?

In *Philippians 1: 6*, we are reminded that:

“Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus”.

This verse serves as a powerful reminder, as we begin to come to the end of this great assignment, that God is with us every step of the way, from the starting line to the finish line. He has a plan for us, or purpose for us, and he will see it through to the end. This should give us confidence and assurance that we are not in this race alone, that God's strength is made perfect in our weakness.

Just as a runner relies on their training, their endurance, and their will power to push through the pain and fatigue of a race, so too should we rely on God's strength to help us finish strong. In *Isaiah 40:31*, with a reminder that:

“Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will work and not be faint”.

This verse serves as a powerful reminder that when we put our trust in God, he will give us the strength we need to persevere, to overcome obstacles, and to finish strong. The key to finishing strong is to keep our eyes fixed on the prize, to stay focused on our goal, and to never give up. In *Hebrews 12: 1 -2*, we are encouraged to,

“Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God”.

Likewise, as Jesus endured the cross for the joy set before him, so too must we endure the challenges

and struggles of our race with joy, knowing that our ultimate prize is waiting for us at the finish line.

Brothers and Sisters, as we approached the final stretch for our race, we may feel tired, we may feel weary, and we may feel like giving up. But we must remember that our strength comes from the Lord, that He will never leave us or forsake us, and that he will carry us through to the end. In 2 *Timothy 4: 7-8*, the apostle Paul writes,

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 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”.

This verse serves as a powerful reminder that when we finish strong, when we persevere to the end, we will receive the ultimate prize: the crown of righteousness from the Lord himself.

In conclusion, finishing strong is not just about crossing the finish line with a burst of speed and energy. It is about enduring the race with perseverance, faith, and hope, knowing that God

is with us every step of the way. As runners in the race of life, let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, and let us press on towards the goal of finishing strong, knowing that our ultimate prize awaits us at the finish line. Remember the words of ***Philippians 1:6***:

“Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus”.

Trust in the Lord; rely on his strength, and finish strong.