

HOMESTRETCH: GOING FOR THE GOLD

Hebrews 12:1-3; 2 Timothy 4:6-8; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

I. Fact of Life: Most of us will arrive at a stage of life that is characterized by deterioration and weakness – it is the _____ stage preceding death.

- Genesis 27:1-4 (Isaac)
- Genesis 48:10, 21 (Jacob)
- Joshua 23:1-2, 14 (Joshua)
- 1 Samuel 4:15 (Eli)
- 1 Samuel 12:2 (Samuel)
- Psalm 71:9, 18 (David)
- Ecclesiastes 3:1-2 (Everyone)
- John 21:18-19 (Peter)
- 2 Timothy 4:6-8 (Paul)

II. Question: What Biblical Instructions do we have on how to run the “Homestretch” (Hebrews 12:1-3; 2 Timothy 4:7)?

A. We are to run the race “by faith” (Hebrews 11:1-6)

1. Faith is a way of knowing that is *reliable*
2. Faith is a way of seeing that is *realistic*
 - a. Faith sees the present accurately and insists that the apparent situation is not complete.
 - b. Faith looks to the future and insists that the present situation is not the last word.
3. Faith is a way of acting that is *responsive*
4. Faith is a way of living that is *relational*

B. Faith is a way of seeing that is realistic

1. Distorted “vision” – seeing the _____ only
 - a. I am falling apart
 - b. I am _____
 - c. I am a _____
 - d. This is the _____.
2. Accurate vision – expanding our _____
 - a. I am a *child* of God whose worth is not measured by achievement or productivity but by _____ (John 1:12; Romans 8:14-17; Ephesians 5:1-2; 1 John 3:1; 2 Samuel 9).
 - b. I am a *servant* of God who is on assignment as a _____ of the resources of his grace (1 Corinthians 3:5-10; 4:1-2; 1 Peter 4:10-11). As such, I am the junior member of a _____ established by God (Matthew 11:28-30)!

- 1) The requirement: _____
 - 2) The outcome: _____ by God
 - 3) My assignments = biblical instructions + resources + opportunities + commitments (therefore, my assignments keep _____).
 - 4) Whether the _____ of my assignments expands or contracts, it is governed by God.
- c. I am a *citizen* of heaven who is en route to his true _____ (1 Peter 2:11; Hebrews 11:13-16)

C. *Faith is a way of acting that is responsive*

1. _____ your current deployment from the King (Job 1:20-21; 2:10; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10)
2. _____ your assignments and your resources and carry them out to the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:17).
 - a. View physical/mental limitations as a “_____” of your responsibilities.
 - b. Focus on what you _____ do, not on what you _____ do.
 - c. Count on God to produce _____ through your faithfulness.
3. As God gives strength, intensify your prayer ministry by becoming a “_____” (Exodus 17:8-13; 1 Samuel 12:1-2, 23).
 - a. As a pray-er, your contribution to the outcome of the ministry is at least equal to that of those who are doing the work.
 - b. This will have the benefit of drawing you closer to God as you draw closer to God.
4. Don't wait until you are _____ to join the “great cloud of witnesses” (Hebrews 12:1; 1 Samuel 12:23; Psalm 71:18).
5. Cultivate “_____ - _____” (Philippians 1:19-24; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; 5:8-9).
6. Grow _____ through dependence upon Jesus (2 Corinthians 4:16-18; John 15:5, 8; Galatians 5:22-23; Hebrews 12:2-3).

D. *Faith is a way of living that is relational –*

1. Be attentive to the ways that He makes his _____ known
2. Finish with the “_____”
 - Philippians 1:20-21
 - Psalms 104:33; 146:1-2; 150:6
 - John 21:19