



Fulfilling God's Purpose For your Life (part 10)
Sunday July 02, 2006

Finishing Your Course

Luke 14:27–35

It is not enough to begin well—we must have the endurance to finish the race.

6.1. Planning

We must count the cost. Part of this process is 'planning.' Planning is having foresight. It is anticipating upcoming events and then deciding on a course of action.

Proverbs 4:26

Ponder the path of your feet, and let all your ways be established.

Proverbs 6:6–8

⁶ Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, ⁷ which, having no captain, overseer or ruler, ⁸ Provides her supplies in the summer, and gathers her food in the harvest.

Proverbs 14:8,15

⁸ The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way, but the folly of fools is deceit. ¹⁵ The simple believes every word, but the prudent considers well his steps.

Proverbs 22:3

A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, but the simple pass on and are punished.

We plan in accordance to what we know is God's will for our lives. We submit ourselves and our plans to His will.

2 Corinthians 1:15–17

¹⁵ And in this confidence I intended to come to you before, that you might have a second benefit— ¹⁶ to pass by way of you to Macedonia, to come again from Macedonia to you, and be helped by you on my way to Judea. ¹⁷ Therefore, when I was planning this, did I do it lightly? Or the things I plan, do I plan according to the flesh, that with me there should be Yes, Yes, and No, No?

We plan not according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

We need to develop and implement Spirit-inspired plans that will help us progress to the finish line. God does not always work independent of our mind, reasoning and thinking (although He does at times). God is the One who gave us our mind/reasoning/thinking and when we place our mental faculties at His disposal, He is able to inspire ideas/plans/thoughts/strategies which take us further into what He has planned. The problem is that sometimes we tend to get so 'into the Spirit' that we isolate the very vehicle that He created, through which He uses us, i.e., our mind/mental faculties. Or on the other extreme, we get so 'into the flesh' with our latest methods/tools/techniques that we fail to hear what the Spirit is saying.

Comments on 'Spirit-Inspired Planning' by Ps. Jack Hayford:



Whenever he prompts us to expect greater income, we pray accordingly. Whenever we sense a need to cut back, we do so without feeling guilty. Since the "goal" is not something we set, we don't have to defend it. It is rather a case of God's purpose being clarified as time goes by.

People and institutions begin to corrode when fleshly zeal is tied to spiritual goals.

In God's order, there is never a situation so desperate that it must grind people to powder or press a financial appeal at the cost of integrity, exploitative tactics, or world-styled salesmanship.

But our desire is to "birth a plan" rather than "plan a birth." The conception of vision, gestation of plans, and carrying to delivery are all pursued in an unabashed spirit of prayer and absolute dependence upon the Holy Spirit to lead—to correct, to time, to inspire faith, to release resources, to stir response.

- *We will not undertake anything without a clear sense of the Holy Spirit's direction, confirmed by eldership.*
- *We will not utilize any means of promotion or fund-raising that depends on human genius or style to be effective.*
- *We will not pursue anything that overlooks the priorities of worship, relationship, discipleship and ministry.*
- *We will pray much, often, and always.*
- *We will think—trusting God's Spirit to give clarity, coherence, and conviction to us all.*
- *We will believe, knowing that "without faith it is impossible to please God." As we do so, He will grow His purpose in us.*

6.2. Running Till the Finish Line

Hebrews 12:1,2

¹ Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

What will it take to finish our course?

What can I do now that will ensure that I run my race to the finish?

- Lay aside every weight.
- Lay aside the sin that easily ensnares.
- Run with endurance.
- Look unto Jesus.

The Apostle Paul

Acts 20:22–24

²² And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. ²⁴ But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.



Acts 21:13

Then Paul answered, "What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

Paul did not hold his life dear to himself, so that he could finish his course and the ministry entrusted to him.

2 Timothy 4:6–8

⁶ For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Enjoy your journey as you pursue God's dream for your life!



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