

WORD

WHAT

What does the Bible say?

Tell Archippus: "See to it that you complete the work you have received in the Lord."

Colossians 4:17

Our goal is not just to start a work, but to finish it. We have to admit that it is difficult to be a finisher. However, God provided the grace for us. Furthermore, He gave us practical steps to follow in order to finish strong in most, if not all, of our work. How do you hope to get motivated in completing a task?

• Count the cost.

²⁸"Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? ²⁹For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, ³⁰saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.'"

Luke 14:28-30

Our Christian faith is not an out-of-this-world kind of faith. It is one that is very spiritual yet very practical at the same time. In this passage, the Lord instructs us to "estimate the cost," which involves a lot of planning and consulting. In what way can you stay in faith while planning and preparing?

• Make it a goal to finish strong.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.
2 Timothy 4:7

The Apostle Paul should be our example of a person who finished strong in his faith life. This was clearly reflected in practical ways like setting goals and finishing tasks assigned to him. In fact, in Romans 15:23-29, faith and practical life for Paul are seamless. Thus, like him, we should also have a goal to finish strong in all areas of life. What does it mean to finish strong?

• To honor God is the greatest motivation.

¹²Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:12-14

In this passage, we can see that the Apostle Paul did not entertain the thought that he has already arrived and finished his goal. He knew that there is always room for improvement and progress. Forgetting the accomplishments of the past, he kept moving forward to accomplish much more. His motivation, however, is not self-glory. He accomplished all his tasks with a motivation to honor God (Philippians 3:14). In what ways can you honor God in your life?

SO WHAT

What is the relevance of the Word to my life?

- In your personal experience, what usually causes you to jump right into the task without counting the cost? What makes it difficult for you to go through the process of planning?
- What is an example of a major task or project that you have decided to accomplish no matter what? What made you decide to do this?
- In what ways can you honor God as you work on an undertaking?

NOW WHAT

How do I apply the Word to my life?

- Name a task that you have to immediately begin working on. What should you do so that you can start the work in a few days?
- Determine the next step to continue an unfinished task. Identify what is needed to get you going once again in the soonest possible time.
- What act of kindness can you do this week as a way of honoring God? How do you plan to do it?