

Finish the Race

2 Timothy

by Don Falkos

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Leaders who began the work of telling others about the new life promised through faith in Christ Jesus were often overwhelmed by their responsibilities. Many gave up. Some even lost their faith. Those who remained diligent found there were several critical elements to their continued success:

- Wholeheartedly exercise the gift God has given you. The Spirit within you is not fearful or timid, but powerful, loving, and self-disciplined. So don't ever be ashamed to share the good news.
- Guard the truth. Protect it from those who would distort the message of grace. And be prepared to suffer on its behalf.
- Pass the message on to those who will faithfully pass it on to still others. The word of God cannot be restrained; it will multiply itself.
- Keep yourself pure. Run from immature passions. Instead, pursue justice, faith, love, and peace.
- Don't engage in senseless arguments. Kindly, humbly, and patiently correct those who misunderstand. And trust God to change their hearts and minds.
- Beware of people who love only themselves and their money. They might try to act godly, but they reject the power that would make them godly. Stay away from these people!
- Remain faithful to the scriptures. They are inspired by God and are useful for teaching, for rebuke, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so we may be prepared for every good work.
- Good teaching is vital! People want to follow their own desires and seek teachers to tell them what they want to hear. Don't tell them what they want to hear! Tell them the truth!
- Fight the good fight; finish the race; remain faithful.