

December 2020 Blog

Finishing Well: Attributes, Traits & Application

Col 4:17 d And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it.

All the Scripture is clear. Each of us have a God-given purpose (ministry in the Lord). How do we stay the course to fulfill it, **finishing well**, as our circumstances and capabilities change?

Review the following verses and words on finishing well! What does the text say? What does it mean? What does it mean/say to you?

Mat 24:45-46 KJV (45) Who then is a **faithful** and wise servant whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? (46) Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

Mat 25:21 KJV His lord said unto him, **Well done**, *thou* good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

- Mat 25:15 KJV And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man **according to his several ability**; and straightway took his journey.

*Talents: a certain *weight* (and thence a *coin* or rather *sum* of money) or “talent”.

This says you will only get what you can handle and can multiply. Not more or less. You are not in competition for gifts.

Are you aware of the gifts and resources God has given to you? If not, are you or can you finish well? Probably NOT!

Words and Attributes from God on Finishing Well

- **Well done** = good job.
- **Servant** = bond servant.
A bondservant is a slave. The word bondservant is the translation of the Greek word *doulos*, which means “one who is subservient to, and entirely at the disposal of, his master; a slave.” Do you meet this criterion with Jesus? Do you see yourself as a Slave to God?
- **Faithful** = trustworthy.

- Joy of the Lord = see Jn 15:11 and Heb 12:2.

Why is it important to Finish Well?

Jesus' parable here in Matthew 24 and 25 points to eternal rewards.

*Do you look forward to rewards in Heaven?

*Do you understand them, and are you scheduling your life to get them? A lot of them?

Mat 24:47 KJV Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.

Mat 25:14 KJV For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.

Traits of a Finisher Who is Finishing Well

1. Faithful to His Lord.
2. Knows how he is gifted and can serve the Lord.
3. Faithful over a few things.
4. Wise servant for his Lord.
5. The Lord is pleased with Him.

Mat 25:21 KJV His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

6. Entering the joy of thy Lord.

It appears to me that if you are possessing these traits, you are finishing well. Below is a chart I've used over the years to help me stay on course.

Finishing Well Progress Chart

Attribute	Dates	Comments and actions
I study and know the Word		
Faithful to His Lord...faithful over a few things for a long time		
Wise servant to Jesus *whom is His Lord		
Faithful to Jesus and God for the trip of life		

Do you look forward to rewards in Heaven? Do you understand them?		
Am I doing the ministry God has given me?		
Giving generously		
Given to prayer		

A Sample for Your Use

<your name> Finishing Well Log			
Attribute	Date	Comments and actions	
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			

8.			
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Over the years, I have discussed these concepts and traits with many people. Here are some of the rebuttals I heard:

- They say they don't know what their giftedness is and don't know how to get it.
- They say God hasn't gifted them in certain areas. This excuse is most used in reference to evangelizing. If God asks you to do it, He has equipped you to do it. There is no excuse by any believer to say he can't share Christ.
- They tell me that they have no gifts to do the work of Christ. Nonsense. There are many jobs in the ministry, and I assure you that you are equipped for some. Here are some examples:
 - Teach
 - Clean up
 - Memorize some Scripture
 - Pray for the work
 - Be hospitable
 - Revitalize your prayer life
 - Write notes of encouragement, invitation men for time in the Word, send "get well" cards, and simply send notes "thinking of you"

In the coming months, Lord willing, I plan to expand on each of these traits for finishing well.

Application

If you are not dead, you are not done!

- Create and develop your own checklist, doing the work God has assigned to you. Fill out your focus on your day in and day out life. Not one you imagine but one from the Scriptures.
- If you have an accountability group, review your thinking with them. If you do not have a group, get one.
- Run with people who want to run the race. Not with those who are not committed.
- See you in Heaven, be ready.