

SERIES TITLE: FIRE AND STEEL – HOW GOD SHAPES MEN
Week 3: The Finish – Leaving Nothing on the Field

Text: 2 Timothy 4:7; 1 Corinthians 9:24–27; Hebrews 12:1–2

Introduction

Big Idea Summary: If I were to sum up this morning's message, I would say that – The true measure of a man is not how strong he starts, but how faithfully he finishes.

1. STARTING STRONG IS GOOD, BUT FINISHING WELL IS BETTER

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

2 Timothy 4:7¹ (NIV)

What kind of finish are you working toward?

2. RUN WITH PURPOSE—NOT JUST MOTION

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore, I do not run aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should... **1 Corinthians 9:24–27 (NIV)**

Meaningless, meaningless... everything is meaningless. Ecclesiastes 1:2

Are you running with purpose—or are you just running?

3. THE RACE REQUIRES ENDURANCE, NOT PERFECTION

Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus... **Hebrews 12:1–2 (NIV)**

¹ All Scripture references are NIV unless otherwise stated.

CLOSING CHALLENGE

- **Run with endurance.**
- **Finish the race.**
- **Keep the faith.**