**GOD HELP US TO FINISH**

**RECEIVING A FULL REWARD**

***Written By: Tommy Romans Sept. 2021***

I awoke the other morning with ONE word going over and over in my mind. It was in my heart and would not leave – it was the word “FINISH”. I went into my study and prayer room, got my Bible and concordance and began a study through the Bible asking God to speak to me what He wanted me to know about Finishing something.

 The word “**Finish**” comes from the Greek word Tel-i-o’-o which means to follow through, to accomplish and complete a work. To bring to the end goal a task you started – to complete and fulfill your Call. To carry through completely, bringing something to perfect fulfillment! O God Help us!!

We live in an age and time when people are so quick to lose interest in something. They will start projects and work on them with excitement. They will put their whole heart in it for a while but after a few weeks or months or less, they lose interest. The desire is gone that they had when they first started. Isn’t it amazing that what use to be so important to us and we dedicated our time and efforts to it – we now tire with it and lay it aside and it becomes an UNFINISHED TASK and then we go and move on to something else!

So is human nature. We just can’t stay committed and focused because there is too much stuff - too many other things to draw our mind and affections away. The good and beautiful things we thought were important is left undone. So many times, this happens in the natural – things become dull and boring and you’re ready for something new and different. You will pass by a project that you started and say – “I’ll get back to it” but time gets away as you become busy and occupied with other things.

 Where the real and sad danger comes in is when we do this in our spiritual life. We become a half-baked cake. We use to weep over the things of the Lord. We would seek Him with our whole heart and cry over the souls of others. We sought for God’s Will and reached for spiritual things. We worked on our spiritual life to obtain God’s favor and blessing. Dear reader – the hour is LATE and God is calling for us to get back to our first Love and Finish the Work He has called us to do!

JESUS’ PRAYER

 Just hours before Jesus went to the Cross, He prayed a long intimate and sincere prayer to His Father! **John 17:1,4** ¶ These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: **V4** - I have glorified thee on the earth: I have **finished** the work which thou gavest me to do.

 Can we pray this prayer to our Heavenly Father as we near the end of our life’s journey down here? How long have you been saved? How many years have you served the Lord? Does the Call of God and your experience still ring true today? Could we utter these words to God and say – Lord, I gave it my best – I have Finished my work you gave me and I fulfilled your Call even in the little things. Father, I never left anything undone, I went all the way to fulfill my ministry.

 Jesus in His short 3 ½ year ministry touched literally hundreds of thousands of precious souls. We’ll never know the many miles He walked – the towns and villages He visited preaching, teaching and reaching the lost. The blessed Son of Man was on a mission ministering to the poor and hurting, praying for the sick, encouraging and lifting the down-hearted. The great Restorer of mankind was on the move, loving and liberating souls! God only knows how many prayers Jesus prayed while here in our world and the many times He poured His heart out to others. What an example! He was truly the Light of the world! Are we? Are we still shining bright for Him?

I GAVE IT MY ALL

Have you ever had a long talk with your Heavenly Father and poured out your heart to Him? Jesus did! In His closing prayer, looking back over His ministry, Jesus said – “Father, I gave it my all, I glorified you every chance I got. I testified to everyone about your Love for them; I always sought to lift you up and brag on you everywhere I went. I knew there would be souls I could touch. I kept going and ministering when times were hard. I knew my work and labor would not be in vain! I knew your Call in my heart – it was all about others. I had a purpose, your Will burned in my heart! I kept pressing onward when my body hurt and didn’t feel like it. I knew I had to keep going, many hurting souls were depending on me!”

 My message in this Newsletter: Let’s Finish the work God gave us and called us to do – what He put in our heart – we **must** Complete it! Though our ministry may be small, there’s no time to quit now! Though you have never been called into some great ministry – to pastor or to preach; you may not have musical ability or some great talent, still we must not let up in our singing God’s praises and worship! Slack not in praying and testifying to others. God has given us all our own personal work – to be a Light and inspiration to others! Our family and friends are depending on us more than we realize. Give it all you got!

 I’m glad Jesus didn’t give up – He did not quit when the way got hard. Did God’s Son and our Saviour who bore human flesh ever get tired and weary? Yes. Did He ever get discouraged because of people? YES! Jesus fed and ministered to thousands but He watched as they all walked away when He began to give them God’s laws of how they must live! Remember, He took upon Him the form of a servant, clothed in a human body and became one of us. He was tempted in ALL points just like you and I but He remained faithful to God’s Call. Many good Christian workers have given up because of people, but Jesus never did!

WHAT WILT THOU HAVE ME TO DO?

 What about it Apostle Paul? Can you tell us your heart? “I sure can! At one time I was lost without God. I was on the road to Damascus – my heart wasn’t right, I was living my life in the

darkness of sin. My heart was full of hate and bitterness toward others, But let me tell you about Jesus! He appeared to me and lit up my path – I saw His Glory, I felt His love and mercy! I fell to the ground a broken man and I cried out – Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? Jesus forgave me and took my sins all away. The Lord called me that day and I will never forget the Call. I’ll never get over the Call!! The longest day of my life, I’ll never forget the vision. I found a Treasure on that road! The Lord truly changed me and I told Him that from now on, I’d go where He sent me and do what He bid me. For many years I have labored and ministered for my Lord. I’ve been whipped, flogged, beaten, laughed at and mocked. I’ve been in shipwrecks, put in prison – But the Fire never went out! The Holy Ghost kept burning. Of all that I’ve went through and faced, the flame has never gone out, I never allowed it to be quenched. I’ll never forget the Call – the Lord put a Go Ye in my soul” – Go Paul, go tell others and witness to them. Testify of my Grace – keep preaching and reaching!!

I’M NEARING THE END

 Paul was a man on a Journey! Dear reader, are you still on your journey? Are you still working and going for God? If you are – then you’re not FINISHED yet! There’s still work to do and testimonies to give. Be a Light for Jesus in this dark hour and don’t let problems put it out. Don’t let your light grow dim in this evil world of trouble!

 Paul served the Lord close to 30 years. He made 4 missionary journeys. He traveled close to 10,000 miles on foot carrying the Gospel and telling the Good News of Christ. He kept preaching and teaching and now he’s nearing the end of his life here and his labors are almost done. It’s about time for him to Go Home! In **Acts 20**, Paul is in Miletus and he sent a message to Ephesus and called for the Elders of the Church to hasten and come to him, that he had something very important to say to them. “There’s something I want tell you all and you must come!”

These men of God made a 4-day, 63 mile journey across land to get to Paul to hear what he had to say. When these elders of the Church gathered around the Apostle – he opened his mouth and poured out his heart to them. “You all know what manner I have been with you at all seasons, serving the Lord with all humility of mind and with many tears and temptations. I brought you Jesus and His Salvation! I’ve been persecuted and I’ve been tried. I held nothing back that was profitable to you – I gave you the Truth. I’m now headed bound in the Spirit to Jerusalem and my race is almost over – my labors are about done. The Holy Ghost has already told me that bonds and afflictions are waiting on me there. **Acts 20:24** – But none of these things Move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might FINISH my Course with Joy, and the ministry which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the Gospel of the Grace of God!

WHAT WILL YOUR TESTIMONY BE?

 Paul gets arrested while in Jerusalem and put in a dark Roman prison. He is waiting his execution. He writes a stirring emotional letter to Timothy, his son in the faith. **2Ti 4:6** - For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

 **7** – I have fought a good fight, I have Finished my Course, I have kept the faith:

 **8** - Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. (I believe when this blessed man penned these words, he was looking back on his life and saying – I’m glad I kept going – I gave it my all. I wasn’t disobedient to the Heavenly Vision I received almost 30 years ago! I have no regrets!!)

Dear reader, my prayer is that when we come to the end of our journey and look back on our life, we too can say – “Lord, I did what I could, I did my best! I never quit my work you gave me to do – I obeyed the Call of God and I have no regrets.”

A MESSAGE FOR BROTHER ARCHIPPUS

 **Go tell Archippus!** Paul wrote a letter to the Colossian Church. It was the custom in that day when Paul would write letters to the Churches, the Pastor and Bishop of that Church would stand up in front of the congregation and read the letter to all the saints. Paul said in **Col. 4:7** – And say to Archippus – “Take heed to the Ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it!” Complete your ministry God gave you Archippus – Finish it!

 Who was Archippus? Paul refers to him in his letter to **Philemon 1:2** as a Fellow Soldier of the Lord. A soldier is one who stands up for Christ and the service of the Lord. It’s clear that Archippus had a ministry – we do not exactly know what it was. The ministries that God calls people to vary from Preaching, teaching, music, singing and song leading, to helps of different kinds and Spiritual gifts. We don’t know what it was, but it was important enough for the Holy Ghost to stir the heart of Paul to tell him – Keep going Archippus, don’t let anything or anybody hinder or stop your work for God! You must fulfill and complete it!! The Church and precious souls are depending on you. What God is telling Archippus so many years ago, the Spirit of God is crying out to us today – KEEP GOING - don’t slack up or quit – you can’t afford to fail – Fulfill your Calling!!

 I want to tell each of you that the Salvation of your family and friends depends upon your obedience to God’s Call. Their help and deliverance hinges upon your Faithfulness to what God has put in your heart and called you to do. When we fail the Lord, we not only rob ourselves but rob others of the Blessings and the touch of God that would have kept them! My heart cries in this Newsletter – where are God’s workers and prayer warriors? Where is the ministry of the Holy Ghost?

A FULL REWARD

 We are still dealing with the Word – FINISH. How many wants to finish your life out serving God? How many of you want to receive a FULL REWARD when your life here is over? O to hear the Lord say on the day of judgment – “Well Done thou Good and Faithful servant, thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many – enter thou into the joys of thy Lord!”

Jesus said in **Lu 16:10** - He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

 Can you say – Lord, help me in the little things to be faithful and obedient? It’s the small areas that God looks at in our everyday life! Lord, I heard your call, I’ve experienced your touch. I know how you have dealt with my heart and put inside me the thing I must do. I know how you’ve personally dealt with me and what you have shown me. I must get to that place you have called me and abide in my Calling. I must fulfill my ministry. Dear reader, we only have one time through in this life and one chance to get it right! We will either Pass or Fail. Don’t let me stand before you O Lord with an unfinished task!

 Tell us Brother John the Beloved what your message is to us today! What would the Holy Ghost say to God’s children right now through you?

**2 John 1:8** - Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a Full Reward.

Is there a chance that we could lose all that we have worked for? Yes! Can we stop in mid-stream and quit the ministry and lose what we have labored for and endeavored to build? YES! Notice what the Holy Ghost said through John– Look to yourselves, (take heed) that you receive a FULL REWARD. Does that not mean that we might stand before Christ at the Judgment seat on that day that is soon coming and only receive a half reward or even less? I tremble as I write this - O God, Help us! Our time is running out!

IT IS FINISHED!

 In John 4 when Jesus’ disciples were trying to get their Master to eat, His answer to them was – “My meat is to do the Will of Him that sent me and to FINISH His work.”

As our Saviour hung dying on the Cross for our sins, He uttered His final words: “IT IS FINISHED!” My labors are through, my work is complete! Father, I gave all – I gave it my best. I never let up or quit but kept going and now through my work, Salvation has come to many!

 Can I tell you that through obedience many souls have come to Jesus and they have been blessed? Many souls have been saved, healed and delivered, homes have been put back together and families are serving God today because someone stayed committed and obeyed the Call.

KEEP WORKING – IT’S NOT IN VAIN

**1Co 15:58** ¶ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

DON’T GET WEARY

**Gal. 6:9** - And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

GOD SEES YOUR LABORS

**Heb 6:10** - For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

 **11** - And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:

 **12** - That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

HOLD ON

YOUR PAYDAY IS COMING!

**Re 14:13** ¶ And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their WORKS do follow them.

 In closing this Newsletter, I want to say with a stirred heart – The hour is Late, our time here is running out – Our Lord Jesus is soon coming – The Lord of the Harvest is even now at our door. The day is almost done. The shadows are now creeping across the fields, soon the night will close the day and our labors will be through! Ye preachers and teachers, singers and players and all ye workers of the Lord – Be not weary! The gifts and callings and talents Jesus has given you – Fulfill your Call – Thrust in thy sickle, the fields are white unto harvest - it’s time to reap! Slack not, don’t leave anything undone! YOU MUST FINISH! Complete your Task!!

When Jesus was coming to the end He said “I have Finished!” What about us? **May God Bless!**