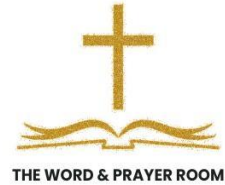


Give Us this Day ...



Day 7: ... The Grace to Finish Well

Because the goal was never perfection — it was perseverance through grace.

Key Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:7 (NIV)

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

Context: When the Fire Feels Final

The Apostle Paul wrote these words near the end of his life - alone, imprisoned, and waiting for execution. The fire had tested everything he believed. The same man who once travelled freely to preach now sat confined to a cell, chained by the empire he had tried to reach with the gospel. By human standards, his ministry looked like a failure: deserted by friends, slandered by enemies, and forgotten by many he once led.

And yet, even there - surrounded by silence, loss, and the shadows of what looked like the end - grace was still holding him. Paul didn't look back with bitterness or regret; he looked back with rest. He knew that every shipwreck, every scar, every sleepless night had been carried by a strength that wasn't his own. This is what grace does - it stays when others leave. It carries you through the fire without letting you burn out. It's the quiet companion that turns endurance into worship.

That's what it means to finish well. It's not about speed, applause, or flawless success. It's about being sustained by the grace that refused to let you go when you wanted to give up. It's choosing faith over frustration and hope over exhaustion. It's learning to rest in the One who's been faithful from the first step to the final breath.

Finishing well isn't glamorous. It's often lonely, unseen, and hard-fought. It means forgiving again, trusting again, trying again - when the world says you should be done. It's walking with a limp but still walking. It's holding the torch when the flame feels small. It's not crossing the finish line in pride but crawling across it in grace.

Because finishing well was never about perfection - it was always about persistence wrapped in grace. The crown doesn't go to the fastest or the flawless - it goes to the faithful who never stopped trusting the One who ran beside them all the way home.

King Solomon, known as the wisest man, to ever live, wrote Ecclesiastes later in his life. After experiencing extraordinary wealth, power, knowledge, and success, he began to reflect on what truly mattered. In Ecclesiastes 9:11 [NLT], he says, “*I have observed something else under the sun. The fastest runner doesn't always win the*

race, and the strongest warrior doesn't always win the battle. The wise sometimes go hungry, and the skilful are not necessarily wealthy. And those who are educated don't always lead successful lives. It is all decided by chance, by being in the right place at the right time." Solomon is sharing one of his profound observations about life: That success, victory, and recognition aren't always the result of strength, speed, or intelligence - sometimes, life unfolds in ways we can't predict or control. It's a humbling reminder that human effort alone doesn't guarantee lasting achievement - only God's grace sustains and completes what we begin.

Focus of the Day: Grace for the Long Run

We celebrate beginnings, but Heaven celebrates endurance. Anyone can start - it takes grace to stay. Grace doesn't erase the struggle; it empowers you through it. It's the divine strength that fills the gaps left by your fatigue. It's the hand that steadies you when your faith shakes. Finishing well isn't about having it all together - it's about being held together by grace. It's choosing gratitude over grumbling, peace over pressure, and purpose over perfection. Because the same grace that found you at the start will carry you across the line.

Why we struggle to Finish Well

- Because exhaustion makes faith feel heavy.
- Because we mistake delay for denial.
- Because we compare our pace to someone else's.
- Because grace feels too simple when we've been striving too long.
- Because we forget that endurance is worship in motion..

Verse Breakdown: 2 Timothy 4:7 (NIV)

- **"I have fought the good fight..."** Grace empowers your fight, it gives strength to stand when quitting looks easier.
- **"I have finished the race..."** Finishing isn't about never falling - it's about letting grace lift you every time you do.
- **"I have kept the faith."** Paul didn't say he kept control, plans, or power - he kept believing. Grace guards faith when fear attacks it.
- **Cross Reference – Philippians 1:6 (NIV).** "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Grace isn't just how the journey starts - it's how it's sustained and completed.

Key Themes

- Grace is the power that finishes what strength starts.
- Endurance is a form of worship.
- Finishing well is about faithfulness, not flawlessness.
- Grace doesn't demand perfection; it delivers perseverance.
- What God starts in grace, He finishes in glory.

Practical Application

- **Step 1: Reflect on the Road.** Look back over where grace met you - in failure, fear, or fatigue. Thank God for the moments He carried you through what you couldn't.
- **Step 2: Recommit to the Journey.** Whisper this prayer: "Lord, I'm still here - not by strength, but by grace."
- **Step 3: Rest in His Rhythm.** You don't need to sprint to prove your faith. Walk in step with grace - it never rushes, but it never stops.

Did You Know?

Research shows that gratitude strengthens resilience - helping people recover faster from exhaustion and discouragement. Spiritually, gratitude magnifies grace. When you pause to thank God for how far He's carried you, you realise you're already walking in the miracle.

Prayer

Father, thank You for the grace that carried me when I couldn't carry myself. Teach me to rest in Your will - to run this race, not in striving, but in surrender. When I grow weary, remind me that grace is still at work. Help me finish well - not perfectly, but faithfully, with gratitude and peace. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Declaration

- I am finishing this race by grace, not by grind.
- I trust the God who carried me through every storm.
- I have the grace to finish well.

 **Final Takeaway:** You've walked through surrender, forgiveness, courage, and trust - but grace was the thread holding it all together. It began with grace, it continues through grace, and it ends with grace. So today, Lord, give us this day the grace to finish well.

Final Reflection

*I hope you've been strengthened and stretched through this **Give Us This Day** series - a reminder that faith is not built in a moment but formed in the quiet rhythm of daily surrender.*

Each day has invited us to face something real: the distractions that steal our focus, the comparisons that cloud our identity, the offences we've carried too long, the shadows we've hidden from, the fears that hold us back, the obedience that costs, and the grace that keeps us going.

Together, these reflections have revealed one truth - spiritual maturity is not about perfection: it's about daily dependence. God doesn't ask us to be flawless; He asks us to be faithful - to keep showing up, to keep trusting, to keep choosing grace when strength runs out.

*Like manna in the wilderness, His grace meets us day by day. We don't have to store it, chase it, or earn it - we just have to receive it. Every **"give us this day"** moment becomes an invitation to live aware of His presence, responsive to His Word, and anchored in His peace.*

So, as you close this series, remember: You don't walk this journey alone. You walk with the One who provides fresh mercy for every morning, strength for every battle, and grace for every finish line. Your race isn't over. Your faith isn't fragile. Your story is still unfolding - and grace is still writing it.

*My prayer is for God to Give us this day the courage, the focus, the peace, and the grace to keep becoming who He created us to be. **Be blessed and see you in the next series.***

