

Finishing the Race

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I. Introduction. There are four instruments for finishing the race.

II. The basics.

A. The basics are always basic.

B. Beware of novelties.

C. The basics are prayer, the Word of God, obedience etc. (Deuteronomy 8:1, John 13:7)

III. The promises of God.

A. The promises are the focus of our faith.

B. Faith without a promise is like a bad check.

C. Faith does not mean much without a word from God. (II Chronicles 16)

IV. Loyalty.

A. Loners always burn out in the race.

B. God put each person in the body of Christ for a purpose. (I Corinthians 12)

C. God got a great victory in Israel because someone bore another's armor. (I Samuel 14:6-7)

D. We must bear the armor of others. (Isaiah 49:25, John 21:15-17, I Peter 5)

V. Authenticity.

A. Let God be as original with you as He is with others.

B. Do not be a clone.

C. There are no plateaus in the Christian life—we are either growing or decreasing.

D. We must always be doing the work of the Lord. (I Corinthians 15:58)

Application questions:

1. What does it mean to be authentic?

2. Why are God's promises important for faith?

3. What Christians has God put in your life for you to lean on? How can you maximize these relationships in order to win the race?
