

“HOW TO SUSTAIN SPIRITUAL MOMENTUM”

Live Your Calling: What On Earth Am I Here For, Part 8

March 14th & 17th, 2019

Danger: Some people’s feelings & commitment only last as long as the **EMOTION** of the experience

The Christian life isn’t a sprint; it’s more like a **MARATHON**

Hebrews 10:32 (NLT) “Think back on those early days when you first learned about Christ. Remember how you remained faithful even though it meant terrible suffering.”

How Do I Sustain Spiritual Momentum?

1. I will find strength from those who have **GONE BEFORE**

Hebrews 12:1 (NLT) “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a large crowd of witnesses to the life of faith,…”

Hebrews 11:38 (NIV) “The world was not worthy of them.”

We often do not receive any outward or visible **REWARD** for our faith in this life

Hebrews 11:39 (NLT) “All of these people we have mentioned received God’s approval because of their faith, yet none of them received all that God had promised [on earth].”

Because we **FOLLOW** God doesn’t mean we’ll have a life of comfort or prosperity

During hard times we need the **SUPPORT** of others

If you want to grow in faith & perseverance, hang around men & women who have a **PASSION** for God

Application: What person of faith & godliness can strengthen my walk with Christ? _____

2. I will put off that which **TRIPS** me up

Hebrews 12:1 (NLT) “...let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily hinders our progress.”

- Let go of the **UNGODLY**

Most often we know what is wrong & what hinders our growth, but we won’t let it **GO**

- Let go of the **UNNECESSARY**

These are things that aren’t bad, but they prevent us from obtaining the **BEST** in life

2 Timothy 2:3,4 (NIV/NLT) “Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. And as Christ’s soldier, do not let yourself become tied up in the affairs of this life, for then you cannot satisfy the one who has enlisted you in his army.”

Application: In order to finish well, I need to let go of _____

3. I will choose to **PERSEVERE** until I cross the finish line

Hebrews 12:1 (NLT) “...And let us run with endurance the race that God has set before us.”

In the race of life, God is far more interested in how we **FINISH** than how we **BEGIN**

“There’s a great market for religious experience in our world, but there is little enthusiasm for the patient acquisition of character and virtue.” Eugene Peterson

1 Corinthians 15:58 (NIV) "Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

Application: Coming out of "Live Your Calling", I know God wants me to keep on _____

4. I will keep a SINGLE-MINDED focus

Hebrews 12:2 (NLT) "We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from start to finish."

People will DISAPPOINT you; Jesus WON'T

While life is a race, you can't develop spiritual intimacy with Jesus on the RUN

To hear God & to know God, you must create SPACE in your life

Philippians 3:8 (NLT) "Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the priceless gain of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I may have Christ."

Application: In order to stay single-minded through the spring, I will _____

5. I will endure the difficult times to see the SMILE of God

Hebrews 12:2 (NLT) "...Christ was willing to die a shameful death on the cross because of the joy He knew would be His afterward. Now He is seated in the place of highest honor beside God's throne in heaven."

When you are committed to living a purpose driven life, you can endure difficulty and pain because you know this life is not ALL THERE IS

2 Corinthians 4:17 (TM) "These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us."

Philippians 3:14 (LB) "I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God is calling us up to heaven because of what Christ Jesus did for us."

John 6:66-69 (NIV/NLT) "From this time many of His disciples turned back & no longer followed Him. Then Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked, 'Are you going to leave, too?' Simon Peter replied, 'Lord, to whom would we go? You alone have the words that give eternal life. We believe them, and we know You are the Holy One of God.'"

Application: Today I declare my choice to follow Jesus, not matter what - _____

My Next Step Today Is:

- Which of your 5 application steps will you do this week? #1 #2 #3 #4 #5
- I will attend "Discovering New Hope" on Sun, March 31st at 5 pm # adults ____ # kids ____

Be sure and join us next week! Invite a friend!!!