FUELING YOUR FAITH IN A WORLD ON EMPTY

HEBREWS



As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God. The time of my death is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful (I have kept the faith).

2 Timothy 4:6-7 NLT





MESSAGE 11: THE FINISH LINE

THE "IT FACTOR"



What is "it" that separates success from failure?



THE "ADVERSITY" QUOTIENT



PAUL G. STOLTZ, PhD

Adversity Quotient

Turning Obstacles Into Opportunities

In AQ, Paul Stoltz explains why some people, teams, and organizations fail or quit, and how others in the same situations persevere and succeed.



What is your "AQ"? How much can you endure?



"What was sown along the path represents the one who listens" to the message of the kingdom but doesn't understand it. The Adversary (evil or wicked one) then comes and snatches away what was sown into his heart. The one sown on gravel represents the person who gladly hears the kingdom message, but his experience (interest) remains shallow. Shortly after he hears it, troubles (problems) and persecutions come because of the kingdom message he received. Then he quickly falls away, for the truth didn't sink deeply into his heart. The one sown among thorns represents one who receives the message, but all life's busy distractions (cares of this world), his divided heart, and his ambition (lure) for wealth result in suffocating the kingdom message and it becomes fruitless.

Matthew 13:19-22 NIV



TWO KINDS OF TESTS: > LIFE IS TOO HARD > LIFE IS TOO EASY



Where did Paul get the power to endure these tests?



We are like common clay jars that carry this glorious treasure within, so that this immeasurable power will be seen as God's, not ours. Though we experience every kind of pressure, we're not crushed. At times we don't know what to do, but quitting is not an option. We are persecuted by others, but God has not forsaken us. We may be knocked down, but not out.

2 Corinthians 4:7-9 TPT



Here's how The Living Bible paraphrases 2 Corinthians 4:9: "We get knocked down, but we get up again and keep going." Paul is telling these Christians, "This is who we are. We are the people who get back up when we get knocked down." Running the race (agon) with perseverance (endurance) requires us to have a defiant spirit that absolutely refuses to put a period where there should only be a comma. "The godly may trip seven times, but they will get back up again. But one disaster is enough to overthrow the wicked" (Solomon in Proverbs 24:16 NLT). Kyle Idleman: Don't Give Up

Where did Paul have his gaze fixed?



So no wonder we don't give up (never lose heart). For even though our outer person gradually wears out, our inner being is renewed every single day. We view our slight, short-lived troubles in the light of eternity. We see our difficulties as the substance that produces for us an eternal, weighty glory far beyond our comparison, Because we don't focus our attention (fix our gaze) on what is seen but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary (soon be gone), but the unseen realm is eternal (last forever).

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 TPT



What is the "it" that kept Paul going?



For it is Christ's love (Jesus' love) that fuels our passion (compels us) and holds us tightly (overwhelms us), Because we are convinced that he has given his life for all of us. This means all died with him, so that those who live should no longer live self-absorbed lives. but live lives that are poured out for himthe one (i.e., Jesus) who died for us and now lives again. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 TPT



 What is your "it" that compels you to keep going?
 What empowers you to keep running?



DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

How to build an enduring, go the distance faith ...

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

Read Hebrews 11: 1-40 (3 Translations) DBS: Hebrews 11:1-6 (6 verses) (Three-Column Study)