

# FINISHING STRONG

LOVE, MARRIAGE & MONEY SERIES

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## Topic: Finishing Strong

**Text: 2 Timothy 4:7-8:** *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing."* (NKJV)

## Introduction

In my little search, I have discovered that every human being gets this excitement when preparing for their wedding. They get overwhelmed with the euphoria that comes with wedding without preparing for the

journey of marriage. Many people hence start their lives without thinking about the finishing line.

### ***"Marriage is a race"***

From our text, I have come to deduce that marriage is a race in which not everyone will finish. No matter the duration of your marriage presently, it is not over until it is over.

Therefore if you will finish well in your marriage, there are 4 F's you must consider:

#### **1. Fight a good fight**

You must fight for your marriage because there are battles that will surface along the journey. This fight does not connote a physical altercation but a fight you engage on bent knees. Whatever changes you have seen in your partner and it does not fit in the picture of a glorious home take it to the place of prayer.

***"A spouse that cannot bend the knees to fight will never make a great home."***

Physical flights prolong situations. A lady or a man who can not bend his or her kneel can not take charge of the home, learn to fight in the place of prayer. Prayer is hard work. Learn to fight.

#### **2. Finish**

Finish means "to complete." From the very day you enter the marriage, resolve that you'll finish come what may. All these ideologies of the

world that it is okay to separate in marriage is from the pit of hell and it is a shame that many pastors are teaching such about.

I remember back then with my mentor, he told explicitly three things that you must if you would finish well in marriage

- *Resolve to make it work from the beginning*
- *Repeat to yourself that the marriage is your "bus stop"*
- *Resolve to no divorce no matter what.*

I have held these three things dear to my heart. This is why discipleship cannot be overemphasised. It is not everything you learn on the pulpit.

### **3. Faith**

Faith is the process employed in the race of marriage; it is what makes you begin and it is what makes you end. If you don't have faith, I tell you nothing will work in the marriage. Every step and action takes faith. Without faith, nothing works. It takes faith to be married, to give birth, to speak to your spouse, and to get a job. Faith makes all things work out.

### **4. Fragrance Gift**

It is the reward and result of the marriage. It is what people begin to see and testify about. Every marriage that has finished well has a fragrance gift which is the reward. Here on earth people will celebrate you and even use you as a model and prayer point but in heaven crown of righteousness awaits.

*These deductions from our main text become a foundation of our teaching today.* In marriage, you must Fight, Finish and have Faith to have access to your Fragrance Gift.

**Understand that marriage is spiritual, it is not a contract but a covenant.** This is why we don't enter marriage anyhow because it is sacred. Marriage entails sexual intercourse which is a hallmark of its covenant engagement.

Premarital sex among singles makes them enter a covenant in which in the long run, they carry a curse from God and a covenanted curse from the lineage of the other person.

For married people, the moment of consummation serves as a seal of covenant between the husband and wife.

***"Attach sacredness and spirituality to marriage."***

So I repeat marriage is not a contract but a covenant that should not be broken. I then beg you, please whatever you are going through in that marriage, endure a little more; God will intervene. A broken home will always beget a broken home, hence for the sake of your children, please persevere.

Marriage is an ordinance and some terms and conditions govern marriages. These terms and conditions include:

## **1. Responsibilities and Commitment to each other**

**1 Timothy 5:8**

*"But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." (NKJV)*

*"For if a believer fails to provide for their own relatives when they are in need, they have compromised their convictions of faith and need to be corrected, for they are living worse than the unbelievers." (TPT)*

To the men, it is the responsibility of a correct man to provide for his family. Men who care so much about their reputation outside that they neglect the needs of their household to cater for people outside are compared to be worse than unbelievers. I pray for every father that you will not fail in your responsibility to provide for your household.

### **Titus 2:3-5**

*"the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things, that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed. (NKJV)*

Every woman must be a homemaker (taking care of their household). It is the responsibility of a woman to ensure the home/house is in order and in place. She must be able to address and serve her husband with utmost respect.

Wake up to your responsibility and stay committed. Be committed to your husband and be a homemaker.

Pray this prayer for your home.

"My marriage will end well, I will finish well. Help is coming for me."  
(Amen)

