

## 10. Keep Going

Growing up in my family, if we started something we had to finish it. If you were building a fence you couldn't leave it half done and expect the cattle to stay in the pasture. You didn't only weed half the garden, you had to pull all the weeds. A task left undone wasn't finished. Even after a hard day of work, you keep going till the last chore is finished. We have all heard the words never give up and never quit. Even though you don't know how much longer it will take to finish or get on top of it, don't quit. Keep going. Proverbs 24:10 says, "If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small." Refuse to be weak. Good, better, best, never let it rest until the good is better and the better, best. Believe deeply that "with God all things are possible" Matthew 19:26b. God has promised a day of deliverance will come, so do not give up.

Another phrase I use a lot is 'finish strong'. We try to finish strong in most areas of our lives. Runners sprint to the finish line. Sports teams at the end of a game give it all that they have to keep the win or make the win. Candidates deliver their best speeches at the end of the campaign. Retirees talk more about significance than success. People don't remember how you started, they remember how you finish. I used to have a poster of an old hay rake hanging in my office. The quote underneath said, "It's better to wear out than to rust out." Isaiah 40:28-31 is a popular piece of Scripture: "Why do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say, Israel, 'My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God'? Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Believe deep that God will give you strength and is your strength throughout all of your life.

Speak right words. There are enough people who speak negativity and discouraging words say things that are positive and encouraging. Walk Tall and Smile Big. Pull those shoulders back put a smile on that face and keep going. Refuse to allow fear to keep you from finishing, have courage, God is with you. Keep praising God. No matter what He's sovereign and knows all things. Keep going! Paul said it this way in Philippians 3:12-14, "Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

Think strong! Don't think too lowly of yourself or too highly of yourself. Paul said, "For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all of your heart, soul, strength, and mind. Take every thought captive and make those thoughts obedient to Christ. We honor God by using our minds. Keep going! Finish Strong!

So how about that? That's the last of the Ten Rules to Live By. They have become a big part of my life and I'm glad someone took the time to teach them to me. As you face the journey of life with its ups and downs, recall them and put them into practice. The only way to do it is to do it. With the Lord's help as

you lean into Him and depend on Him you will see how these rules do help you stay on top of life. Don't forget to carry on and finish strong.