

Start to Finish – A Plan for 2009

This weekend's topic: Stay the Course – Hebrews 12:12 & 13

February 7 & 8, 2009

So take a new grip with your tired hands and strengthen your weak knees. Mark out a straight path for your feet so that those who are weak & lame will not fall but become strong.

Hebrews chapter 12 verses 12 & 13 (928)

So...

Remember...

- the faithful men & women who lived God honoring lives before you
- the crowd of witnesses who are watching & cheering you on as you run your race
- to keep your eyes focused on Jesus & get up after you fall
- that God's discipline (education, training, NOT pain) in my life is for my good & benefit

take a new grip with your tired hands...

- God knows that ALL of us get tired & frustrated trying to live a life that honors Him
- And He knows that at times, we ALL let go & give up
- That's why He encourages ALL of us to "take a new grip" & get back in the game!
- In the original writing, the implication is clear...I'm to help others take a new grip

Take a new grip of what?? Help others do what??

- Finances, relationships, work, marriage, family, full-devotion to Christ, fears, kids, addictions, secret sins, sexual purity, serving God, obedience, ????????

and strengthen your weak knees...

- This refers to paralysis...the total & absolute inability to do something
- Here, I have the desire to do something, but I'm paralyzed by _____ so I do nothing!
- Again, the clear implication is that I'm helping others around me get "un-stuck!"

Remember...

- God doesn't ask me to solve my problem or fix it!
- He does ask me to acknowledge it, confess it, ask for help
- Then He asks me to "take a new grip..."
- and to "strengthen my weak knees"
- When I do this, I'M STANDING PERFECTLY STILL...ready for God to show up do something great!!!!

(over)

Mark out a straight path for your feet...

- After I take a new grip...
- and after I strengthen my weak knees...
- THEN God asks me to mark out the path I know I need to take
- It has to be in this order, because first I need to show God that I acknowledge the problem / struggle in my life...
- THEN God shows up with His wisdom & His strength to rescue me!

God's watching me run my race...

- For what area of my life is God asking me to "mark out a straight path?"
- In order to honor God in this, what do I need to stop doing?
- Start doing?
- How isolated am I from other Christ-followers in this area of my life?
- How many are praying for me about this?

so that those who are weak & lame will not fall but become strong.

This life...it's not about me!!

- My life is having a direct impact on LOTS of others all around me
- There's no such thing as a loner or island... our lives intersect & impact each other
- In 2008, did my life make a good or bad impact on those around me?
- How is God asking me to change in 2009 so my life will make a positive impact on those around me?

More...

- What do Jesus' words in Matthew 10:39 teach me about the purpose of life & where real joy comes from in life?
- What does 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 teach me about my trouble in life and what my attitude should be about my troubles?
- What does 1 John 3:16 teach me about what God expects my life to be all about? How close do I come to living this out?
- What does Galatians 6:9 teach me about giving up?

Next weekend: No One Left Behind - Hebrews 12:14-17, 25-29