

# Finishing Strong

Some thoughts on moving the mountains of midlife

## 1. IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO RESPOND TO JESUS' CALL TO "FOLLOW ME"

**John 11:25-26** Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. *Do you believe this?"*

***Devotional exercise:*** Consider this question of Jesus for your current reality... *Do you believe this? What difference does it make? What difference **should** it make?*

## 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

## 2. DEVOTION TO GOD THROUGH THE SACRED TEXT:

**Deuteronomy 17:18-20** (NLT) "When he sits on the throne as king, he must copy for himself this body of instruction on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests. <sup>19</sup> He must always keep that copy with him and read it daily as long as he lives. That way he will learn to fear the Lord his God by obeying all the terms of these instructions and decrees. <sup>20</sup> This regular reading will prevent him from becoming proud and acting as if he is above his fellow citizens. It will also prevent him from turning away from these commands in the smallest way. And it will ensure that he and his descendants will reign for many generations in Israel.

***Devotional exercise:*** Ask God what portion of the Bible he would have you to make a copy of. Begin daily copying. Ask God to speak to you through this exercise. Keep your copy with you. Read it daily.)

### **3. COMMITMENT DOES NOT LIMIT YOU; IT LIBERATES YOU**

- a. It is essential that we choose to shoulder our moral obligations

### **4. MANY OF THE PSALMS ARE AN IMPORTANT REVELATION THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL USE TO GROUND US IN THE SOIL OF GOD'S PRESENCE**

- a. Remaining firmly rooted in God's presence and love connects us to our life-giving Source (See Psalm 1; 2; 50; 100; 139; etc.)
- b. Psalms provides for us:
  - i. A sustained current of revelation
  - ii. A spiritual root system
  - iii. A backdrop for our humanity
  - iv. A backbone for living God's truth
  - v. Access to faith
  - vi. Grounding in God's family

### **5. AS THE PACE OF LIFE CONTINUES TO QUICKEN, WE MUST MOVE MORE QUICKLY FROM IDEAS AND IDEOLOGY TO CONTACT AND COMMUNION WITH THE LIVING ONE**

**Ephesians 3:15-17** — that out of his glorious, unlimited resources he will give you the mighty inner strengthening of his Holy Spirit. <sup>17</sup> And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts, living within you as you trust in him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love...

### **6. REDEFINING PASSION IS A LARGE AND IMPORTANT PART OF THE AGING PROCESS...HERE ARE A FEW OF CHANGES THAT MUST BE CONFRONTED IN THE LATER YEARS**

- a. As we age, passion is renewed, moving forward when seen as **long-term fidelity versus short term feelings**
- b. As we age, passion moves from **external viewpoint to an eternal viewpoint**
- c. As we age, passion shifts from an **external encounter** to an **internal viewpoint called entanglement**