



## Staying on Track Power for the Journey

### ***Except They Be Sent***

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

*Matthew 28:19-20*

**Introduction:** Every believer is called to some kind of Kingdom work. Jesus said, “Go and make disciples.” Besides winning the lost—this “go” involves feeding the hungry, helping the poor, and a whole range of ‘compassion’ [mercy] ministry. It’s a big calling—how can we possibly do it?

***What do I need to ‘stay the course’ and do the work?***

***The Apostle Paul shares five metaphors for our journey of service:***

#### **1. Be Poured Out**

**a. Drink offering:** Paul is most likely referring to the Old Testament drink offering Ex 29:40-41; Lev 23:13; Num 15:4-10. Wine from a ceremonial cup was poured on the altar, probably on the sacrifice itself.

**My offering:** Am I willing to be ‘emptied’ of my ‘self’ and filled with the Spirit of God for the work of the ministry? Am I willing to be a living sacrifice for Him? *Rom 12:1-2*

#### **2. Fight The Good Fight**

**a. The fight:** The word for fight is ‘agon’ the source of our word agony. It means to ‘contend for the victory.’ This includes spiritual warfare *2 Cor 10:3-5* serving God in the midst of tribulation. *John 16:33*.

**My fight:** Am I willing to be ‘engaged’ in God’s call on my life—even if I feel like giving up? Am I willing to ‘pray through’ until God brings His perfect will for me?

#### **3. Finish the Race**

**a. The race:** Paul’s focus here is not on winning, but on finishing and staying on the track. Paul had a ton of reasons to get off the track. See *2 Cor 11:25-28* in the sidebar.

**My race:** Am I willing to finish what God has started in me? Am I willing to build my nest in His tree? Am I willing to entertain God-interruptions?

#### **4. Keep the Faith**

**a. The faith:** Faith here is used in the legal sense of a trustee of a trust. The ‘trust’ is the doctrine of Christ—I must be true to the Word of God.

**My faith:** Am I willing to be true to God’s Word?

#### **5. Focus on the Crown**

**a. The crown:** This is not the ‘diadem’ but the ‘stephanos’ or wreath of a bride at a wedding or the winner of race. Paul calls this a crown of ‘righteousness’ — serving under the power and the blood of the lamb.

**My crown:** Am I willing to ‘lay up’ treasures of service to the Lord? Is my crown all about Him or me?

#### **2 Tim 4:6-8 (NKJV)**

**:6** For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.

**:7** I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

**:8** 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.

#### **2 Corinthians 11:25-28 (NKJV)**

**:25** Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep;

**:26** in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

**:27** in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—

**:28** besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.

#### **Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV)**

**:1** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

**:2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.