

How can Believers Finish Well in their Walks with the Lord■

by Stephen Elliott

This sermon emphasizes the importance of finishing well in one's walk with God by highlighting key factors that contribute to spiritual growth and maturity. It discusses the significance of personal devotional life, mentoring, accountability groups, retreats, and family discipleship in nurturing a strong relationship with God and ensuring a fruitful Christian journey.

Scripture: Psalm 119:105, Proverbs 27:17, Mark 6:31, Deuteronomy 6:6, 2 Timothy 3:16

Topics: "Finishing Well", "Spiritual Growth and Maturity"

Description

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Transcript

Finishing well with your walk with God. About five or six years ago, the largest study of discipleship ever conducted was conducted in the U.S. It was called the Reveal Research Project. And they started with an assumption that if a person was faithful in worship, if the person was involved in a small group, and if the person was involved in Christian service, that that person would be growing as a Christian.

What they discovered, talking to hundreds of thousands of Christians, they discovered that those three things, public worship, small group involvement, and involved in an area of ministry or service, those are only predictors of spiritual growth for a young Christian. They are not a predictor of whether or not an older Christian is growing in their relationship with God. What they discovered, the number one thing that determines whether or not a person is growing as a Christian is whether or not they have a personal devotional life, whether or not they're regularly reading scripture, journaling, meditating on the Word of God.

And so the active involvement in our personal devotional life with God is critical to finishing well as a Christian. Second of all, they also discovered the importance of things like mentoring and accountability groups, far more important than small groups were for an older Christian. That if an older Christian is involved in either mentoring or being mentored and they're involved in an accountability group, that is far

more impactful to their spiritual well-being than their involvement in small groups.

Although nobody's arguing that small groups are not important. Third of all is periodically being involved in a retreat, going away on a prayer retreat, a silent retreat, a marriage retreat perhaps. Those occasional going away on retreats, getting away from your normal routines, is really really critical to your well-being as a Christian.

And the last one has to do with family discipleship, where mom and dad take responsibility to pour into their kids to read scripture, to pray for them. Having family devotional time is tremendously impactful both to the parents as well as to the kids. And so if you want to finish well, make sure you've got a good devotional life.

It's up to date. Periodically going on retreats to get out of your normal routines to hear from God, making sure that you're either mentoring somebody or being mentored or held accountable by an accountability group. And then if you happen to be married or if you happen to have children, to make sure that you're involved in family discipleship.

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