


# Finishing Well




Kent Humphreys



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**A recent survey of people  
aged 95 and older asked  
the question:**

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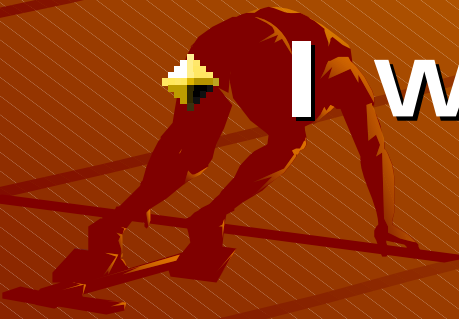
**“If you had to live your life  
over again what would you do  
differently?”**

# The top three answers:

✦ I would risk more

✦ I would reflect more

✦ I would do more that would outlive me.



# Table of Elders-60 years of age

- ✦ Looking at pastors and Christian Leaders in their 20's
- ✦ Only 10% still going in their 60's
- ✦ Some dropped out of the professional ministry
- ✦ Bobby Clinton: one-third finish well
- ✦ Some dropped out of the church
- ✦ Some left the faith

**What kind of a legacy will you  
leave to those who are  
closest to you?**



## 2 Timothy 4:7-8 (NASU)

**“I have fought the good fight,  
I have finished the course,  
I have kept the faith;”**



(Unless noted all scriptures from the NASU)



# How well did these finish the race?

✦ Enoch

✦ Josiah

✦ Samson

✦ Caleb

✦ Hezekiah

✦ Solomon

✦ Rahab

✦ Samuel

✦ Peter

✦ Paul

✦ Saul

✦ Joshua

✦ David

✦ Moses

✦ Asa

✦ Uzziah

✦ Joseph

✦ Eli

✦ Abraham

✦ Esther



**Today we want to answer  
several questions:**



# Questions:

- ✦ **What does it mean to finish well?**
- ✦ **Why do we want to do it?**
- ✦ **How long is the race?**
- ✦ **What tools do we need?**



# Questions:

- ✦ What are the obstacles that we will face?
- ✦ Who are some examples in the Bible that finished well?
- ✦ Who are some that did not finish well?
- ✦ What are the characteristics needed to get it done?

# A. What does it mean to finish well?

2 Timothy 4:7-8

A silhouette of a runner in a starting crouch on a track, positioned to the left of the text.

I have fought the good fight,  
I have finished the course,  
I have kept the faith;

# Definition:

✦ (Living)

“I have **remained faithful**. And now the prize awaits me —”



✦ “**Finish**”-to end, accomplish, fulfill, or complete

# Definition:

✦ It means "to complete"

✦ **2 Corinthians 8:11**

"But now **finish** doing it also, so that just as there was the readiness to desire it, so there may be also the **completion** of it by your ability"



# Finishing Well:

- ✦ Some do NOT complete the race

- ✦ Luke 14:29-33

"Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is **not able to finish**, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This man began to build and was **not able to finish.**'"



# Finishing Well:

✦ We must finish the course

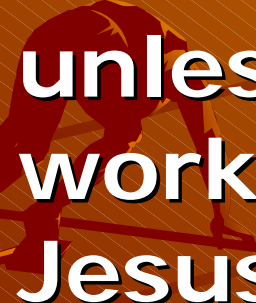
✦ Acts 20:24

"But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may **finish my course and the ministry** which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God."

# Finishing Well:


✦ Acts 20:24 (Living)

But my life is worth nothing  
unless I use it for doing the  
work assigned me by the Lord  
Jesus —



# Finishing Well:

✦ Matthew Henry in speaking of Paul in the passage of Acts 20 says,



✦ "He went on resolutely, preaching there, where he knew how dearly it would cost him."


✦ That he may finish well.

# He noticed four things about Paul:

- ✦ **First**, He looks upon his life as a **course**, a race, **Heb 12:1**
- ✦ **Secondly**, He counts upon the **finishing** of his course, dying is the end of our race, when we come off either with honor or shame.
- ✦ **Thirdly**, He is full of care to **finish it well**, which implies a holy desire of obtaining and a holy fear of coming short.
- ✦ **Fourthly**, finish it with **joy**...

# Hebrews 12:1

Therefore, since we have so great a  
cloud of witnesses surrounding us,  
let us also  
**lay aside every encumbrance and  
the sin which so easily entangles  
us, and let us run with endurance  
the race that is set before us,**



# **B. Why do we want to do it?**

**To win the prize,  
the rewards,  
from our Father**





**“Do what you know is right,  
not how you feel”**

**-my friend Hollis**



One of my Empty Nester  
group of long time friends,  
a living lizard



# Why? It is a Race!

## ✦ 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. Everyone who competes in the games exercises **self-control** in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; but I **discipline** my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

# Why? There is a Prize!

## ✦ Philippians 3:13-16

Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but **one thing I do**: forgetting what lies behind and **reaching forward** to what lies ahead, I press on toward the **goal for the prize** of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

**“Press on,  
forget about yesterday’s  
mistakes and failures, and  
look ahead!”**

**-my friend Chris**



# Why? We will be Rewarded!

✦ Hebrews 10:35

Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a **great reward**. For you have need of **endurance**, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised

# Why? We will receive a Crown!

✦ Revelations 3:10-13,

“Because you have kept the word of **My perseverance**, I also will keep you from the hour of testing,...

hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown.”

**C. How long is the race?**





**We will all face death, unless  
Jesus comes for us at the  
rapture.**

**Ecclesiastes 3:2**



**A time to give birth and a time to  
die;**

**A time to plant and a time to uproot  
what is planted**



**“Realize that the Battle  
is never over”**

**-my friend Bruce**


**Example:**

**Keeping close tabs with each other  
for 30 years plus**



# Many will die without Christ

John 8:24



"Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."

# We may have 70 years or just one more day

## Psalm 90:9-10

For all our days have declined in Your  
fury;

We have **finished our years** like a sigh.

As for the days of our life, they contain  
**seventy years,**

Or if due to strength, eighty years,  
Yet their pride is but labor and sorrow;  
For soon it is gone and we fly away.

# All will face the Judgment

And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him. Hebrews 9:27

# We are secure in His Life

Romans 14:7-9

For if we live, we live for the Lord, or **if we die, we die for the Lord;** therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

**D. What tools do  
we need?**





# A Heart for God

## ✦ 2 Chronicles 34:27-Responsive

- ✦ Because your heart was **tender** and you **humbled yourself** before God when you heard His words against this place and against its inhabitants, and because you humbled yourself before Me, tore your clothes and wept before Me, I truly have heard you," declares the LORD.



# A Heart for God

✦ Ezekiel 11:19-20 (NIV)-Undivided

✦ I will give them an **undivided heart** and put a **new spirit** in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh. Then they will follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. They will be my people, and I will **be their God.**

# A Heart for God

- ✦ Broken
- ✦ Humble
- ✦ Desires to know God
- ✦ Sincere
- ✦ Integrity
- ✦ Pure
- ✦ Blameless
- ✦ Trusts Him
- ✦ Filled with His Word
- ✦ On the right path
- ✦ Fully Committed

# What is the Focus of our Heart ?



# Seeking the “World”

## ✦ 1 John 2:15-16

- ✦ Do not love **the world** nor the things in **the world**. If anyone loves **the world**, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in **the world**, the lust of the **flesh** and the lust of the **eyes** and the boastful **pride** of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

# Seeking the “World”

✦ Lust of the  
Flesh

✦ Indulge /  
Pleasure

✦ Lust of the Eyes

✦ Possess /  
Possessions

✦ Pride of Life

✦ Impress /  
Power or  
Position



# Seeking the “World”

✦ **Flesh: Lack of Sexual Purity**

✦ **Eyes: Lack of Financial Integrity**

✦ **Pride: Independent Spirit**





**“Remember, it is not about  
you, but about Him  
and about others”**



**-my friend Hollis**

# Seeking the Lord – Early and Often

✦ Mark 1:35

✦ In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went away to a secluded place, and was praying there.

# Seeking the Lord

✦ Proverbs 22:4

The reward of humility and the  
fear of the LORD are  
riches, honor and life



# Seeking the Lord (contrast)

✦ Pleasure

✦ Enjoyable,  
long life

✦ Possessions

✦ Riches

✦ Power,  
Position

✦ Honor



# 2 Chronicles 1:11-12

- ✦ God said to Solomon, "Because you had this in mind, and **did not ask for riches, wealth or honor, or the life** of those who hate you, nor have you even asked for long life, but you have asked for yourself **wisdom and knowledge** that you may rule My people over whom I have made you king, wisdom and knowledge have been granted to you. **And I will give you riches and wealth and honor"**

# Seeking the Lord / Opposites

✦ Happiness will not bring Joy

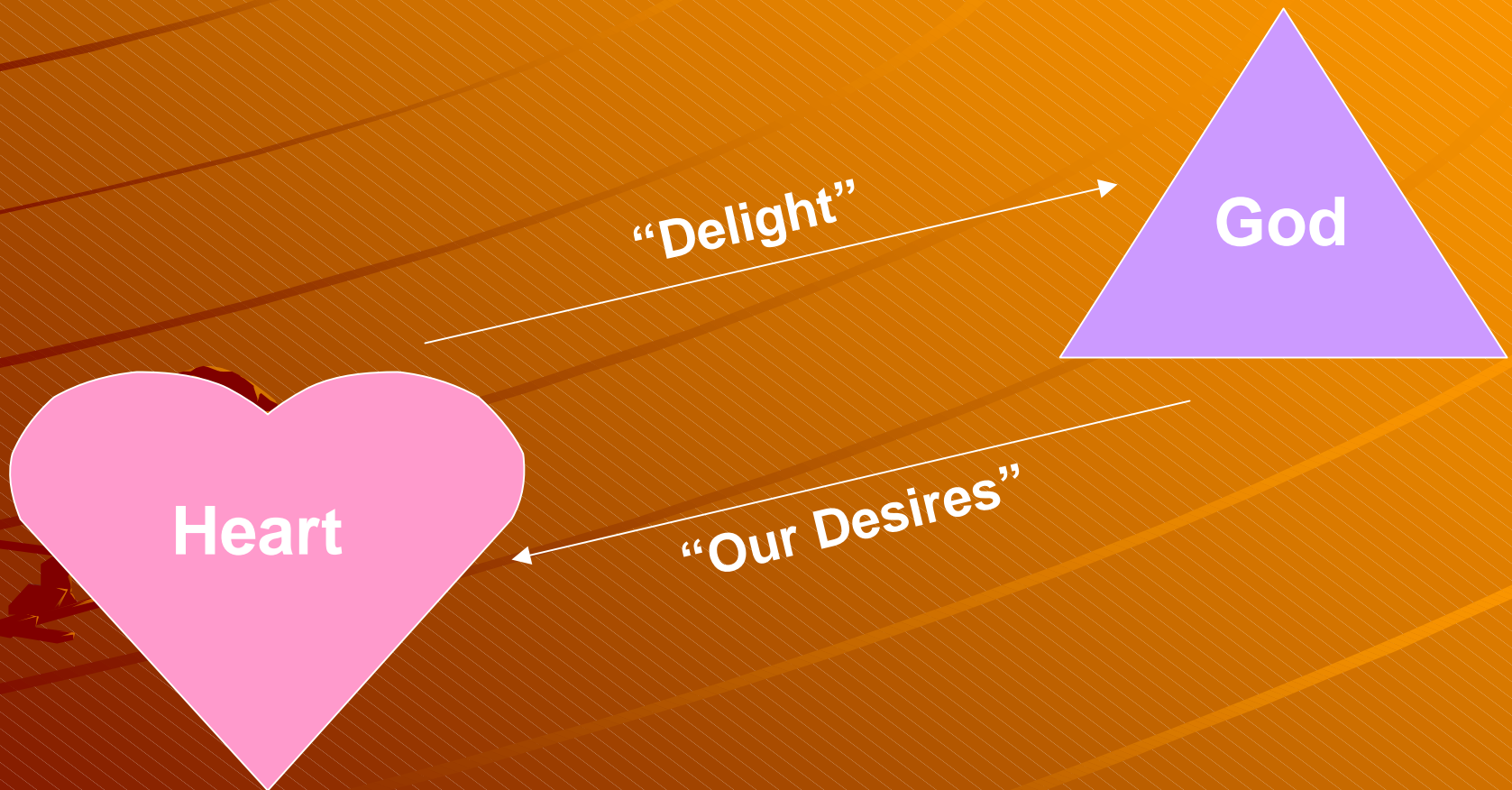
✦ Give away and you will receive

✦ The Way "up" is "down" !






# Heart's Focus : "God"



# Psalm 37:4-5

**Delight yourself in the LORD;  
And He will give you the desires  
of your heart.**

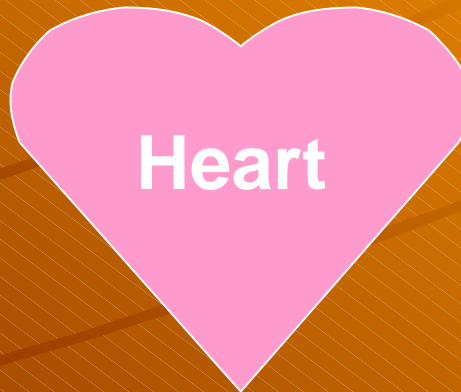
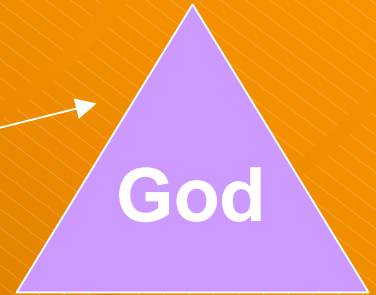
**Commit your way to the LORD,  
Trust also in Him, and He will do  
it.**



# Heart's Focus

“Bad & Ugly”

“Best”



“Good”



## Job 22:23-26

"If you return to the Almighty, you will be  
**restored;**

If you remove unrighteousness far from your  
tent,

And place your gold in the dust,

And the gold of Ophir among the stones of the  
brooks,

**Then the Almighty will be your gold**

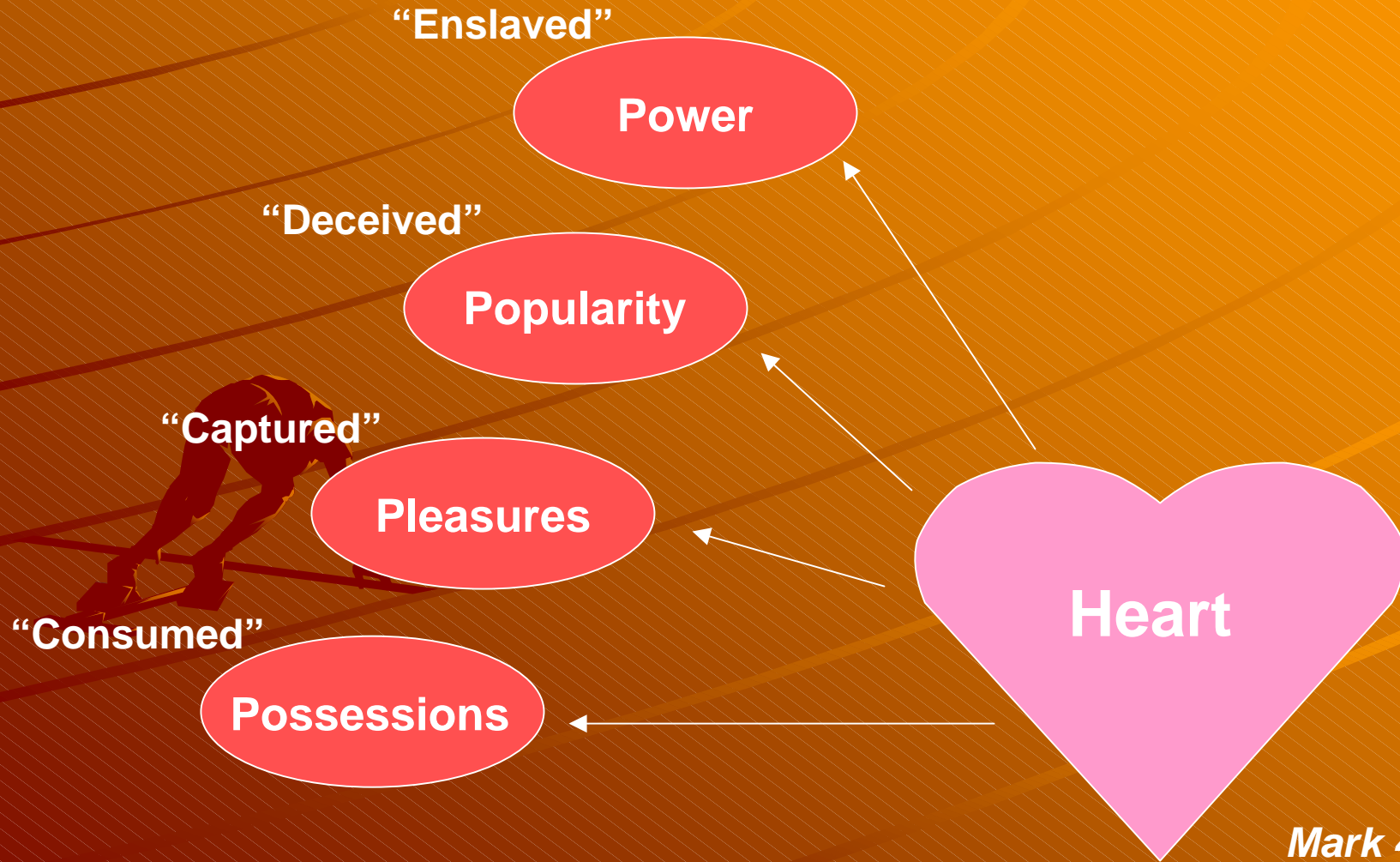
And choice silver to you.

"For then you will **delight in the Almighty**

And lift up your face to God.



# Heart's Focus : "World"



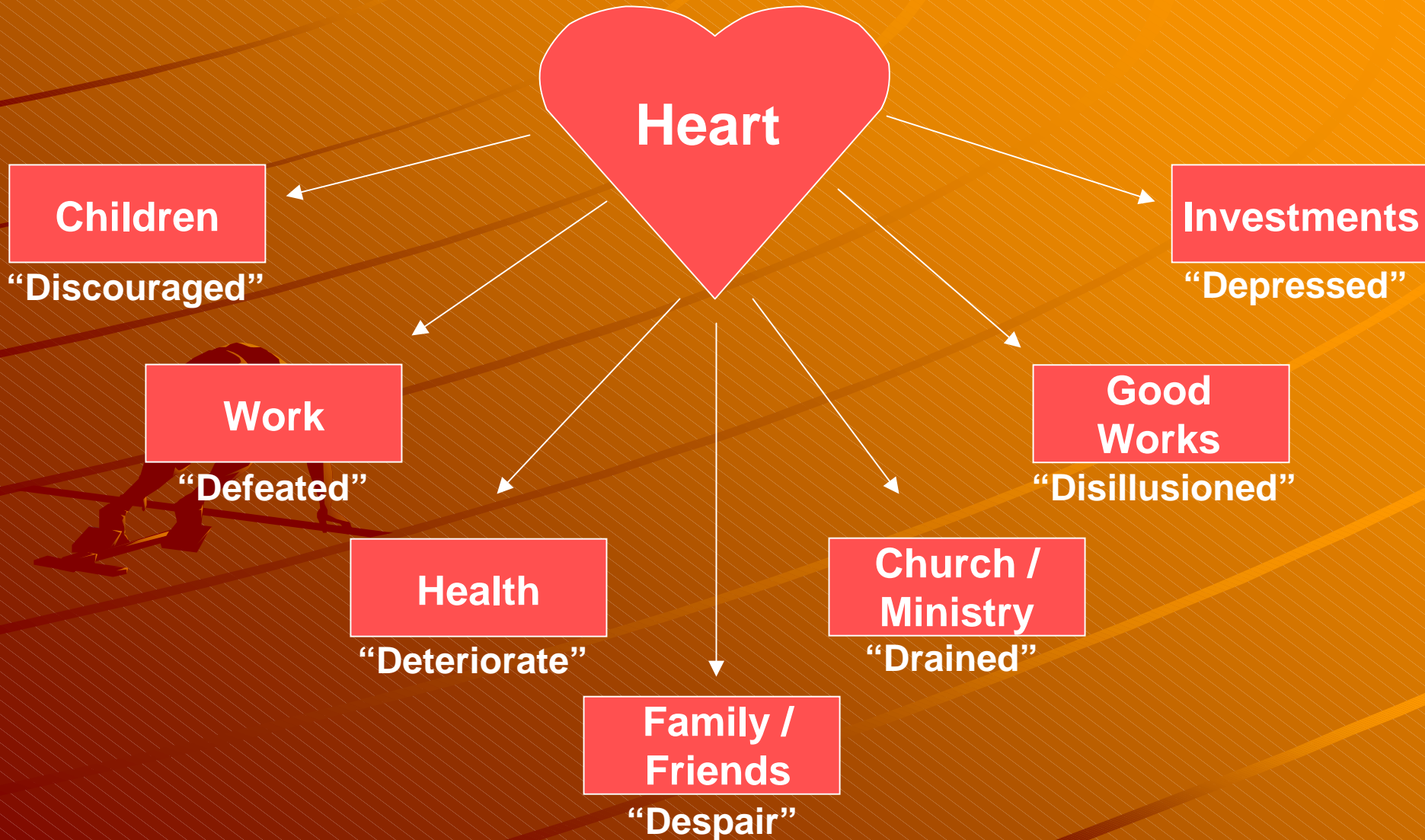
*Mark 4:19 (L)*  
*John 2:15,16*

## Mark 4:19-20 (NLT)

“but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the **cares** of this life, the **lure** of wealth, and the **desire** for nice things, so no crop is produced.”



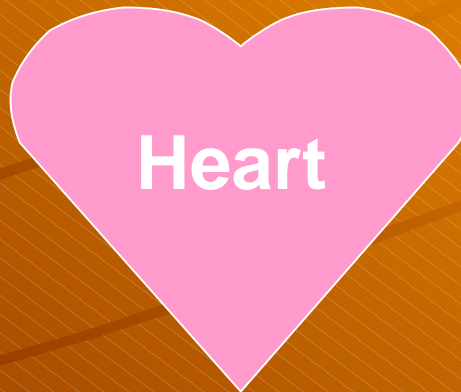
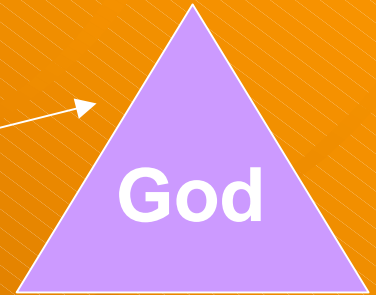
# Heart's Focus : "Good Things"



# Heart's Focus

“Bad & Ugly”

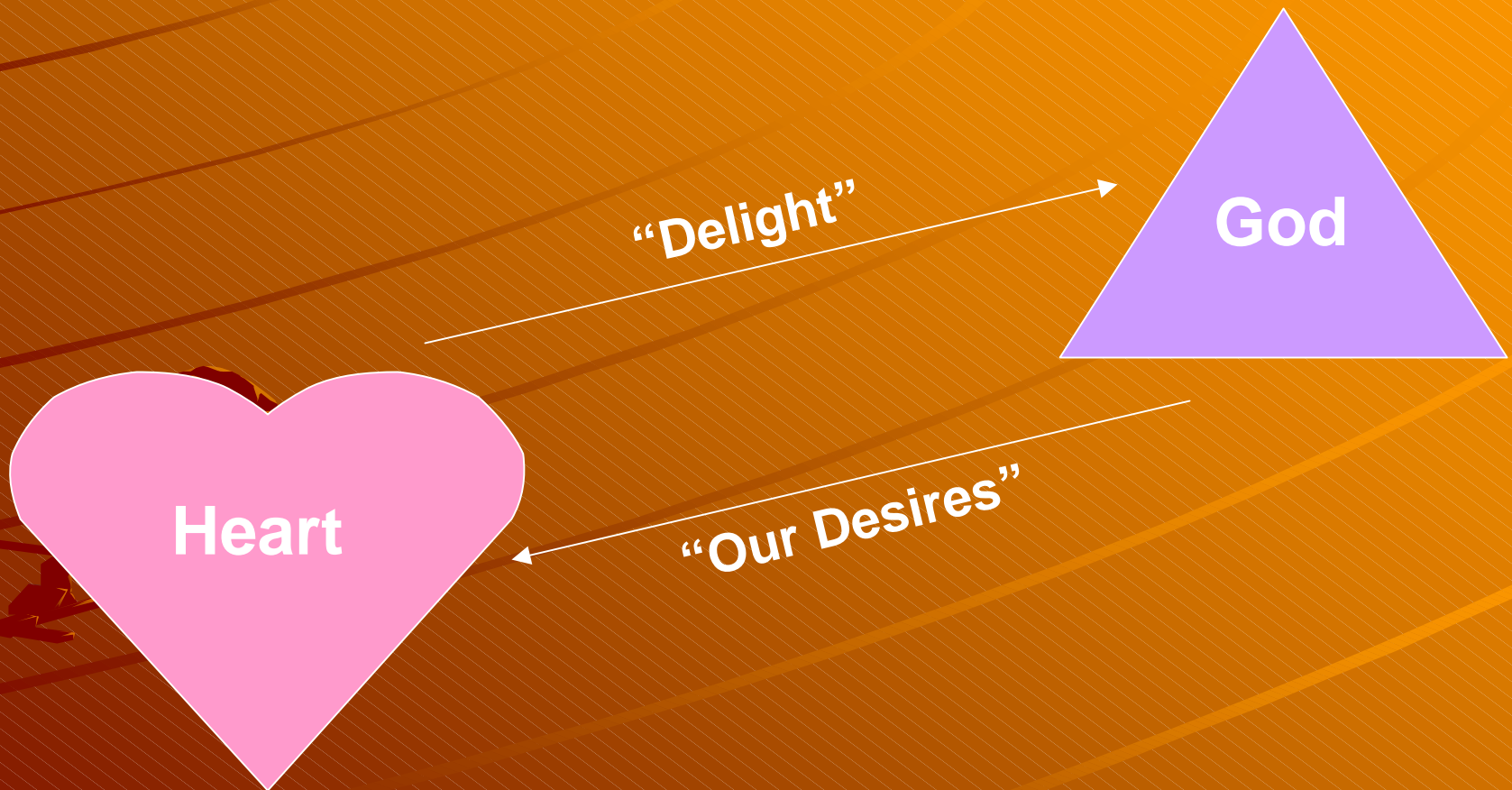
“Best”



“Good”



# Heart's Focus : "God"



# Necessary Tools:

**1. Heart for God / Time alone**

**2. Mentors / Modeling**



# Mentors

🏆 Active

🏆 Passive

🏆 Occasional



# Necessary Tools:

**1. Heart for God / Time alone**

**2. Mentors / Modeling**

**3. Inner Circle / Counsel**





# Inner Circle

✦ Peter, James, and John

✦ Daniel and his three friends

✦ Who are those who care about your soul?

# Necessary Tools:

1. Heart for God / Time alone

2. Mentors / Modeling

3. Inner Circle / Counsel

4. Small Group / Vulnerability



# Small Group

✦ Jesus and the twelve

✦ Weekly

✦ Bi-Weekly

✦ Monthly

✦ Quarterly

# Necessary Tools:

1. Heart for God / Time alone
2. Mentors / Modeling
3. Inner Circle / Counsel
4. Small Group / Vulnerability
5. Large Group / Encouragement



# Large Group

- ✦ Model of Jesus

- ✦ Biblical Teaching, Worship, Prayer

- ✦ Loners do not survive by themselves

- ✦ Have a large "Kingdom" vision



# Necessary Tools:

1. Heart for God / Time alone
  2. Mentors / Modeling
  3. Inner Circle / Counsel
  4. Small Group / Vulnerability
  5. Large Group / Encouragement
  6. A Positive Attitude
- 



It is not our circumstances that  
will bring us down, but our  
responses to those  
circumstances....



**Attitude !**

# Negative Attitudes

✦ Bitterness

✦ Anger

✦ Jealousy

✦ Resentment

✦ Critical Spirit

✦ Envy



# Positive Attitudes

✦ Galatians 5:22-23

✦ But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control;

**E. What are the  
obstacles  
that we will face?**



# Obstacles

## ✦ Hebrews 12:2

- ✦ Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every **encumbrance** and the **sin** which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

# Obstacles

Two Kinds:

✚ Weights

✚ Sins





# Obstacles / Weights

✦ “Weights” in our lives

✦ (NIV)

“Let us throw off everything that hinders”

✦ (NLT)

“Strip off every weight”

# Weights:

## (1). Family

**Matt 10:37-38**


A He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.



# Weights:

## (2). Worries

Luke 8:14




The seed which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to maturity.

# Weights:

## (3). Riches

Luke 12:15-16




Beware, and be on your guard against every form of **greed**; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions."

# Weights:

## (4). Everyday Life Entanglements

2 Timothy 2:4



No soldier in active service **entangles** himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.

# Weights:

(5). Too Busy...





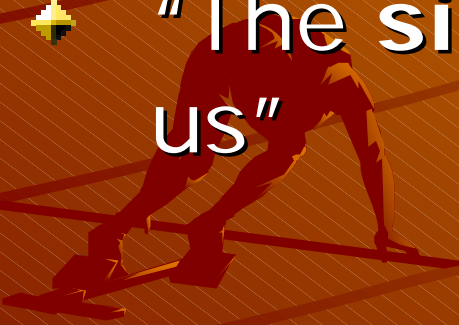
# Obstacles / Sins



Sins



"The **sin** which so easily entangles  
us"




# Sins

## ✦ Lust of the Flesh

## ✦ 2 Corinthians 7:1

✦ Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us **cleanse** ourselves from all defilement of **flesh** and spirit, perfecting **holiness** in the fear of God.



# Sins

✦ Lust of the Eyes

✦ Ephesians 4:22

✦ Reference to your **former** manner of life, you lay aside the **old self**, which is being corrupted in accordance with the **lusts of deceit**,

# Sins

✦ **Pride**

✦ **Proverbs 8:13**


✦ "The fear of the LORD is to hate evil;  
**Pride** and arrogance and the evil way  
and the perverted mouth, I hate."

# Sins

## ✦ Evil Desire

## ✦ Colossians 3:5

✦ Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, **evil desire**, and greed, which amounts to idolatry



# Sins

✦ Hypocrisy-

✦ 1 Peter 2:1

✦ Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander



**Who are some examples  
in the Bible that  
finished well?**



# Enoch, man of faith and pleasing to God

- ✦ Of Noah and Enoch alone it is written that they "walked with God" (Gen 5:24; 6:9);
- ✦ others "walked before God" (Gen 17:1) faith was the ground of his" pleasing God

# Enoch, man of faith and pleasing to God

- ✦ Hebrews 11:5-6. “By faith Enoch was taken up so that he would not see death; AND HE WAS NOT FOUND BECAUSE GOD TOOK HIM UP; for he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God.”

# Josiah, a man of God's Word

✦ He did right,  
because he studied the Word  
of God



# Josiah, a man of God's Word

## ✦ 2 Kings 23:2-4

- ✦ "He read in their hearing all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the LORD. The king stood by the pillar and **made a covenant** before the LORD, to **walk** after the LORD, and to **keep** His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes with all his heart and all his soul, to **carry out** the words of this covenant that were written in this book."

# Daniel- faithful in a changing environment


✦ Daniel 1:8

✦ But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food or with the wine which he drank; so he sought permission



# Daniel- a faithful man

✦ What was his age when he was thrown into the Lions Den?



# Daniel- a faithful man

+ 83 years of age

+ Served under four kings



# Daniel-The Source of his faithfulness

## ✦ Daniel 6:10

- ✦ Now when Daniel knew that the document was signed, he entered his house (now in his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem); and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously.

# Daniel-The Consistency of his faithfulness

- ✦ At 14 to 17 years of age
- ✦ With the vision in Daniel 2 with king Nebuchadnezzar
- ✦ With the Queen mother in Daniel 5
- ✦ With king Darius in Daniel 6
- ✦ With king Cyrus in Daniel 6:28

# Positive Examples:

✦ Enoch

✦ Josiah

✦ Daniel

✦ Moses

✦ Elijah

✦ Nathan

✦ Peter

✦ Zerubbabel

✦ Caleb

✦ Joshua

✦ Abraham

✦ Joseph

✦ Paul

✦ Luke

**Who are some that did  
not finish well?**





# Negative Examples:

✦ Samson

✦ Saul

✦ Uzziah

✦ \*\* Hezekiah

✦ Solomon

✦ \*\* Asa ?

✦ Eli

✦ \*\* David ?



# Asa

✦ 2 Chronicles 15:17

✦ “nevertheless Asa's heart was blameless all his days.”

✦ Asa's heart was fully committed  
[to the LORD] all his life

NIV

# Asa

✦ 2 Chronicles 16:7-10

✦ Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah and said to him, " Because you have relied on the king of Aram and have not relied on the LORD your God, ...You have acted foolishly in this. Indeed, from now on you will surely have wars." Then Asa was angry with the seer and put him in prison, for he was enraged at him for this.

# David

✦ 1 Samuel 16:7

✦ "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

# David

✦ 1 Kings 14:8-9

✦ you have not been like My servant David, who kept My commandments and who followed Me with all his heart, to do only that which was right in My sight; you also have done more evil than all who were before you,

# David

✦ 1 Kings 15:5

✦ Abijam ...He walked in all the sins of his father ...and his heart was not wholly devoted to the LORD his God, like the heart of his father David. But for David's sake ...because David did what was right in the sight of the LORD, and had not turned aside from anything that He commanded him all the days of his life, except in the case of Uriah the Hittite.



# Hezekiah – A life of ups and downs that ended sadly



Notice the steps in his life from  
success to failure!

# Hezekiah – A Great Start

✦ 2 Chronicles 31:20-21  
(Heart for God)

✦ Thus Hezekiah did throughout all Judah; and he did what was good, right and true before the LORD his God. Every work which he began in the service of the house of God in law and in commandment, seeking his God, he did with all his heart and prospered

# Hezekiah – He prayed for help

- ✦ 2 Kings 19:15-21 prayed
- ✦ Hezekiah prayed before the LORD and said, "O LORD, the God of Israel, who are enthroned above the cherubim, **You are the God, You alone**, ...the kings of Assyria have devastated the nations ...I pray, **deliver us from his hand** that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You alone, O LORD, are God."

# Hezekiah – A Great Victory

✦ 2 Kings 19:35

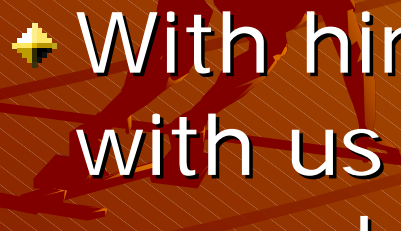
✦ Then it happened that night that the angel of the LORD went out and **struck 185,000** in the camp of the Assyrians;

# Hezekiah – A Leader

✦ 2 Chronicles 32:8

✦ Led people to trust God

✦ With him is only an arm of flesh, but with us is the **LORD our God to help us** and to fight our battles." And the people relied on the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.





# Hezekiah- success and God's blessing

✦ 2 Chronicles 32:23

✦ And many were bringing gifts to the LORD at Jerusalem and **choice presents to Hezekiah** king of Judah, so that he was exalted in the sight of all nations thereafter.



# Hezekiah-Pride and Destruction

## ✦ 2 Chronicles 32:24-25

- ✦ In those days Hezekiah became **mortally ill**; and he **prayed to the LORD**, and the LORD spoke to him and gave him a sign. But Hezekiah **gave no return for the benefit he received, because his heart was proud; therefore wrath came on him and on Judah and Jerusalem.**

# Hezekiah-15 years added

✦ Isaiah 38:5-6

✦ "Go and say to Hezekiah, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of your father David, "I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; behold, I will add fifteen years to your life.'

# Hezekiah-Repented for a while

✦ 2 Chronicles 32:26

✦ However, Hezekiah humbled the pride of his heart, both he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the **wrath of the LORD did not come on them in the days of Hezekiah**

# Hezekiah-Pride after blessing

✦ 2 Kings 20:13-19

- ✦ Hezekiah listened to them, and **showed them all his treasure house**, the silver and the gold and the spices and the precious oil and the house of his armor and all that was found in his treasuries. There was nothing in his house nor in all his dominion that Hezekiah did not show them.

# Hezekiah-Destruction

- ✦ Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the LORD. 'Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house, and **all that your fathers have laid up in store to this day will be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left,**' ...word ...is good." For he thought... **there will be peace and truth in my days?"**



# Hezekiah-Wicked Son

✦ Matthew 1:10-11

✦ Hezekiah was the **father of Manasseh**, Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah.

✦ Great Grandson was godly Josiah



# Cycle of Blessing and Judgment

- ✦ Sought God
- ✦ God blessed him
- ✦ Adversity
- ✦ He prayed in faith
- ✦ God delivered
- ✦ People followed him
- ✦ Success / Blessing
- ✦ Pride / Worldly
- ✦ Illness
- ✦ Prayer / Humility
- ✦ Healing
- ✦ Judgment
- ✦ Generations affected

# Be Alert when you Enjoy:

✦ Prosperity

✦ Followers

✦ Career Success

✦ Health

✦ Position

✦ Comfort

✦ Ministry  
Victories

✦ Ages 40 to 60



**What are the  
characteristics needed to  
get it done?**



# Characteristics-

- ✦ Perseverance / Endurance
- ✦ Wisdom
- ✦ Determination
- ✦ Integrity
- ✦ Courage
- ✦ Diligent
- ✦ Dependent on God
- ✦ Filled with the Spirit
- ✦ Holy
- ✦ Humble
- ✦ Student of the Word
- ✦ Self Discipline
- ✦ Grace in failure

# Characteristics-

- ✦ Forgiving
- ✦ Disciple maker
- ✦ Servant heart
- ✦ Unselfish
- ✦ Person of Influence
- ✦ Leaving a legacy
- ✦ Content
- ✦ Unselfish
- ✦ Submissive
- ✦ Discernment
- ✦ Willing to Suffer
- ✦ Suffering loss

## 2 Timothy 4:7-8 (NASU)

**“I have fought the good fight,  
I have finished the course,  
I have kept the faith;”**



(Unless noted all scriptures from the NASU)



# Contact me:

- ✦ Kent Humphreys
- ✦ [kent@fcci.org](mailto:kent@fcci.org)
- ✦ Free weekly email
- ✦ [www.fcci.org](http://www.fcci.org)
- ✦ Finishing Well: Power Point and Handout emailed to you
- ✦ [admin@fcci-CrownCompanies.com](mailto:admin@fcci-CrownCompanies.com)
- ✦ [www.lifestyleimpact.com](http://www.lifestyleimpact.com)

# Walking Through Open Doors

by Kent Humphreys

# Establish a Spiritual Foundation

*When asked which four things have contributed to their Spiritual growth, leaders have responded:*

1. Consistent Devotional Life
2. Role Model/ Mentor/ Example
3. Accountability Group
4. Encouragement of Family/ Friends

Therefore, we need to  
emphasize four  
relationships :

Our relationship with God

Our inner circle

Our small group

Our large group

# Four Words for Today

- Kingdom
- Relationships
- Community
- Transformation

# Question:

- How do we take His Kingdom to where we live, work, and play?
  - How do we *develop relationships, form community*, and see our neighborhoods and workplaces and cities *transformed by Jesus Christ* who lives in our hearts?



# Colossians 4:2-6 (NASU)

- Devote yourselves to prayer...
- That God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ
- Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity...
- So that you will know how you should respond to each person

# Prayer

- Make a list of twelve people in your workplace, neighborhood, or school
- Begin to pray for them by name on a regular basis
- Ask God to make you sensitive to them and to use you as He is working in their lives.

# You Become a Pastor in your Workplace

## Co-Worker/ Contacts

### Believers

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### Need

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### Resource

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### Action/ Date

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### Non-Believers

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### Unsure

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# Open Doors of Crises

- Birth of a new baby
- Death of a loved one
- Major illness
- Marriage problems
- Children issues
- Financial difficulties
- Loss of job

# Opportunities to Minister to Others

- Observe
- Identify Needs
- Be Sensitive
- Listen
- Be Available
- Serve
- Care
- Encourage
- Love
- Communicate

# Examples of Responding

- I have been praying for Joe for months
- I hear that Joe's mother has died (crisis)
- I know that he is going through the normal grieving process (observation)
- I send Joe a card with a personal note and continue to pray (sensitivity)
- I listen to Joe over a coffee break about what he is doing to settle her affairs



# Examples of Responding

- I ask Joe to go to a basketball game with me during the next few weeks (availability)
- I offer to help Joe go to pick up some furniture from his mom's home that he is selling (servitude)
- I send him a booklet of scripture (caring)
- I drop him a note to let him know that I am still praying for him months later (encouragement)

# Example of Responding

- I get a call from Joe late one night about his teenager who is in trouble. I listen, trying to encourage and counsel him. I am there for him. (show love)
- Finally, I ask Joe if we can read the scriptures together. Eventually, I ask if he would like to invite Jesus into his life.

# Ministry in the Workplace

- Their Need:
  - Relationships
  - To be loved by their co-workers
  
- Our Objective:
  - To communicate the love of Jesus Christ

# **Make Your Own List**

- List the names of your co-workers, neighbors, or family members
- Put down what problem(s) they are facing at this time
- Make a list of possible tools that you can use to minister to each person individually

# Review the Process

- Pray for those in your sphere of influence
- Watch for the doors that God is opening
- Be sensitive to each opportunity to minister to the person
- Respond to their interest as you build trust in the relationship

# This Type of Ministry

- Kingdom focused, not church or religious
- Based on relationship
- It is intentional about what we do
- We have to build bridges with Joe through our workplace connection *before* the crises in his life
- We are extending the walls of the church out into our natural sphere of influence



# Think Strategically

- How can you serve a family with a new baby?
- How can you care for a co-worker or neighbor facing surgery?
- What can you do with a friend who is facing marital difficulties?
- What about someone who is having financial problems?

# **Think from a Servant's Perspective**

- How can you show your concern when a friend mentions having discipline problems with a child?
- How would you help a parent who has a teen with a drinking or drug problem?
- How would you handle a co-worker who has a spouse that has lost their job?

# Taking Christ to Your Workplace

- Do NOT take religion to work – take Christ!
- Lift up the flag but do not be offensive
- Be a light in a world of darkness

# **Taking Christ to Your Workplace, cont.**

- Offer to pray for co-workers with problems
- Write it down and check on them later
- Ask about their families
- Keep a supply of Bibles and booklets to give out in the right situation
- A hand-written card is a sign of caring
- Say 'thank you'!
- Go out to lunch and talk as you travel together

# Remember!

- Always pray first; preparing your heart and theirs
- Look for where God is at work in the lives of others; watch for that open door
- Be patient – this is a process, not an event
- As you walk through that open door, identify which opportunity that you need to address first

# Remember!, cont.

- Respond carefully and with sensitivity; this person is NOT a project but a relationship that God has brought into your life for His purposes.
- They want to know that you care for them before they will listen to what you have to say to them.
- They will look for examples of your character and integrity. They want to know if it really works in your life before they will buy into what you “preach” to others.
- It is “caught”, not “taught”; they will watch you closely. This takes TIME!

# Biblical Examples

- Jesus with Matthew and tax collectors
- Jesus with Zacchaeus in his house
- Had centurion go back to the army
- Had the demoniac stay in his community
- Our greatest influence will be with those that we are with everyday



# Focus on Your Friends that Need Christ

- This type of evangelism and discipleship takes places in our sphere of influence and is NOT about activities but about relationships
- Pray...Pray...Pray
- Read the Gospels and look at the example of Jesus Christ loving and serving people

# Examples of Booklets

- **Be prepared; build your tool box**
  - American Bible Society

# Stories

- Children's Bible story books / books on parenting teenagers and finances
- The Message Bible
- The Spanish Bible
- The One-Year Bible
- Give up your parking place and park at the back

# Stories

- Cards to those who are sick, hospital visits, Grief Kits (for 12 months of care)
- Birthday cards – signed with notes
- Monthly letter, “My Heart to Yours”
- Christmas letter to all employees, customers, and vendors
- Cards to Jewish competitors

# Stories

- Christmas dinners
- Free books
- Summer picnics for the entire family
- Marriage retreats
- Saying THANK YOU in person, by card, by phone, by email, by awards of every kind

# Stories

- Pizza lunches on values for new employees
- Monthly cookouts in the summer
- Company chaplains
- Mother's Day for the entire week
- Take your family to the movies, with a video and popcorn (Christmas gift)

# Review the Process

- Pray for those in your sphere of influence
- Watch for the doors that God is opening
- Be sensitive to each opportunity to minister to the person
- Respond to their interest as you build trust in the relationship



# Walking Through Open Doors