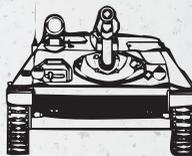


FINISHING WELL



WARM UP

Fred Bosworth laboured for 50 years around the world as a leading evangelist with a major healing ministry. Although he died in 1958 his books are still widely read. There were over 285,000 recorded healing miracles from his radio broadcasts alone. The legacy of his obedience to God was the spiritual birth of hundreds of thousands of people who came to the Lord through his ministry. In 1958 at the age of 81 his family was surprised to see him retire to his bed. When they asked what he was doing, he explained that God had shown him that he had “finished his course”. It was time to go Home. He had prayed that he would glorify the Lord in his death, as he had in his life, and would die without sickness. While lying in bed Fred suddenly looked up; he never saw his family again. He saw what was invisible to them. He began to greet people and hug people – he was enraptured. Every once in a while he would break off and look around saying “Oh, it is so beautiful”.

BACKGROUND

The apostle Paul suffered stripes; imprisonment; stoning and being left for dead; was shipwrecked; spent a day and night in the sea; was robbed; had threats of violence from fellow Jews and Gentiles and false brethren; experienced danger in the city, in the wilderness and on the sea; suffered weariness, sleeplessness, hunger, thirst, fasting, cold, and nakedness and yet cared for many churches. (2 Corinthians 11:23-28)

Few leaders finish well. It has been estimated that only about one in three leaders finish well today. Difficulties include abuse of finances and power, pride, illicit sex, problems with spouses and children, and plateauing i.e. they don't continue to grow in Christ.

Finally with a smile on his face he stopped breathing. There was no struggle, no pain, no sound, no death rattle. He was with the Lord!

**READ 2 Timothy 4:7-8
1 Corinthians 9:24-27**



QUESTIONS

1. Who will help you finish well?

2. What will keep you from being one who leaves the race?

3. Are you prepared to deny yourself and take up your cross and follow Jesus? (Mark 9:34)

4. Are you zealous or complacent in your walk with God?

CONSIDER THIS

- Characteristics of those who have finished well are:
- Surrendering absolutely to Christ.
 - Total belief and trust in the Word of God.
 - Walking in true holiness before God.
 - Depending upon God alone and His promises.
 - Having a teachable, humble, responsible and obedient spirit.
 - Mentoring and helping others run the race of life.
 - Always being prepared to learn more about God's ways.
 - Having good relationships with mentors, peers and others who can help us.
 - Persisting to the very end in our walk with God and never giving up.



IT'S TIME FOR PRAYER

MY RESPONSE AS A PROMISE KEEPER

I will seek to walk humbly before God and obey Him at all times.

I will read His Word daily and apply it in my life and in my relationships with others.



WRAP UP

Pray for one another for God's strength to finish the race well.