

“HOW TO SUSTAIN SPIRITUAL MOMENTUM”

The Purpose Driven Life, Part 8

June 14th, 2009

Danger: Some people's feelings & commitment only last as long as the emotion of the experience

The Christian life isn't a sprint; it's more like a marathon

How Do I Sustain Spiritual Momentum?

1. I will find strength from those who have gone before

Hebrews 12:1 (NLT) "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a large crowd of witnesses to the life of faith,..."

Hebrews 11:38 (NIV) "The world was not worthy of them."

We often do not receive any outward or visible Reward for our faith in this life
Hebrews 11:39 (NLT) "All of these people we have mentioned received God's approval because of their faith, yet none of them received all that God had promised [on earth]."

Because we follow God doesn't mean we'll have a life of comfort or prosperity

What person of faith & godliness can strengthen my walk with Christ? _____

2. I will put off that which trips me up

Hebrews 12:1 (NLT) "...let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily hinders our progress."

- Let go of the ungodly

Most often we know what is wrong & what hinders our growth, but we won't let it go

- Let go of the unnecessary

These are things that aren't bad, but they prevent us from obtaining the best in life
2 Timothy 2:3,4 (NIV/NLT) "Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. And as Christ's soldier, do not let yourself become tied up in the affairs of this life, for then you cannot satisfy the one who has enlisted you in his army."

In order to finish well, I need to let go of _____

3. I will choose to persevere until I cross the finish line

Hebrews 12:1 (NLT) "...And let us run with endurance the race that God has set before us."

In the race of life, God is far more interested in how we finish than how we begin

"There's a great market for religious experience in our world, but there is little enthusiasm for the patient acquisition of character and virtue." Eugene Peterson

1 Corinthians 15:58 (NIV) "Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

Coming out of "40 Days of Purpose", I know God wants me to keep on _____

4. I will keep a single-minded focus

Hebrews 12:2 (NLT) "We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from start to finish."

People will disappoint you; Jesus won't

While life is a race, you can't develop spiritual intimacy with Jesus on the Run

To hear God & to know God, you must create space in your life
Philippians 3:8 (NLT) "Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the priceless gain of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I may have Christ."

In order to stay single-minded through the summer, I will _____

5. I will endure the difficult times to see the smile of God

Hebrews 12:2 (NLT) "...Christ was willing to die a shameful death on the cross because of the joy He knew would be His afterward. Now He is seated in the place of highest honor beside God's throne in heaven."

When you are committed to living a purpose driven life, you can endure difficulty and pain because you know this life is not all there is
2 Corinthians 4:17 (TM) "These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us."

John 6:66-69 (NIV/NLT) "From this time many of His disciples turned back & no longer followed Him. Then Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked, 'Are you going to leave, too?' Simon Peter replied, 'Lord, to whom would we go? You alone have the words that give eternal life. We believe them, and we know You are the Holy One of God.'"

Today I declare my choice to follow Jesus, not matter what - _____

My Next Step Today Is:

- I am interested in being in an "One to One Discipleship" group
- Coming out of "40 Days of Purpose", I know God wants me to keep on _____
- I plan to attend the "Meet the Pastor's" meal on Sunday, June 28th
- I want to play in the summer New Hope co-ed volleyball league beginning Sun, July 12th