**RUN TO WIN**

**“Tetelestai - Strong Finishers” Podcast Episode 3**

***“Jesus said, ‘Tetelestai, it is finished.’”* John 19:30**

God desires for us to be “Strong Finishers.” We must be willing to give our all, totally committed to the cause. This is worthy of a total sacrifice. We all need to be committed to fighting to the end in competition and in life.

God never started anything He intended to leave unfinished. Jesus burned with a passion to finish what God gave Him to do. The final statement He made from the cross was “Tetelestai”, which translates, “It is finished”. He accomplished what was set before Him to do. He got the job done. We’re called to have that same spirit of a finisher. “Strong Finishers” are committed to battling to the end. They overcome by force; they are victorious. As an athlete to be where you are, you have had to display great effort, intensity and perseverance, and display the ability to get better as the season progresses. To those individuals and teams that keep the focus, strive to improve, and display a commitment to finish strong, the rewards are great. The Bible portrays many examples of individuals who have endured, persevered, struggled, and fought to the very end. They have exhibited a commitment to go the distance and complete the course. One such individual was the Apostle Paul. As a result of Paul’s driving determination and immovable, unshakable faith, Christianity became a force to be dealt with in the Roman Empire and continues today. The power of this man was unmistakable. At the end of Paul’s life he made the statement, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith.” II Timothy 4:7. It has been said that “A man’s last words are often his main concern.” Let’s see what Paul was hitting on.

1. **POSSESS A COMPETITIVE SPIRIT** ~~--~~ Paul makes the claim that, *“I have fought”* in the beginning of this verse. His choice of the word “fought” carries with it the determination and dedication of one who possesses a highly competitive spirit. Paul endured a lot. Our competitive spirit must be unleashed. God has placed His spirit within each of us.
2. **REALIZE IT IS A BATTLE** ~~--~~ Paul was fighting *“the good fight”.* He realized that he was in the midst of an intense battle. He was not going to be surprised by the nature or intensity of the battle he was in. We must likewise be prepared for a battle. Our opponents will throw everything they have at us. This is a battle we can win!
3. **FINISH STRONG** ~~--~~ Paul then addressed the fact that *“I have finished”.* To do so, one must stay on course and not be distracted; all the while keeping their focus. We must keep the proper focus.
4. **FOLLOW THE COURSE** ~~--~~ To finish the course that God had set before Paul was a major accomplishment. Paul stated, *“I have finished the course”.* Not only did Paul finish the course, he finished strong; he ran through the tape; he went the distance. We can’t afford to fade or ease up. Too much is at stake. We must go the distance and finish strong.
5. **HOLD ON TO WHAT IS IMPORTANT** ~~--~~ Paul then concludes the statement by saying, *“I have kept…”* Paul was an individual who held on to what’s important. It will require an all-out effort on our part to do so, but it will be worth it.
6. **REMAIN FAITHFUL ALWAYS** ~~--~~ The most important thing to Paul was his faith. He concluded, *“I have kept the faith”*. What an accomplishment this was to remain faithful to the very end, no matter what. That is the challenge for each one of us…to remain faithful to the Lord not just for a season, but for a lifetime and on into eternity! Will the same be said of us? I believe it will.

**“FIGHT – FINISH – FAITH” - Tetelestai**