



Finish The Fight | Shawn Johnson | 6.25.2023

Weekly Study

## SHARE

In our final week of *2 Timothy*, Pastor Shawn breaks down one of the last lessons Paul wrote before his death. In his final encouragement to Timothy, Paul gives an inspiring proclamation of his faithfulness in three key areas. He has “fought the good fight,” “finished the race,” and “kept the faith.” Life comes with many obstacles and setbacks, but Shawn encouraged us that if someone like Paul can keep the faith and finish the race set before him after a life full of obstacles, setbacks, and persecution, we can do the same. If you’re looking for hope and strength to keep fighting in your life, this message is for you.

## GROW

### **Read 2 Timothy 4:6-8 NIV**

One of the reasons Paul was so effective at building the kingdom of God was because of his communication skills and wisdom, but the thing that transformed the lives of people he came into contact with was his commitment and obedience towards living the life he spoke of. Verse 7 is a powerful culmination of the commitments Paul made throughout his life which Shawn broke down into three simple categories: fight the fight, finish the race, and keep the faith. This is truly what it looks like to pour yourself out for the kingdom of God.

**Imagine for a moment that, like Paul, you knew your time was almost up. If you knew tomorrow was your final day on earth, could you say with full faith and confidence that you’ve fought the good fight, run your race, and kept the faith? Now what if you had 10 years left? Or 50? What do you want these years to look like so that when you reach the end of your life the Lord will say to you, “well done good and faithful servant.”?**

Paul was onto something by highlighting these three commitments. At face value they might seem like random attributes Paul came up with on his own, but if you look throughout the scriptures you will find that

each commitment (fighting the fight, finishing the race, and keeping the faith) can be found interwoven into our story. If we want to live lives like Paul, we must understand the scriptures as intimately as he did.

### **Read 1 Timothy 6:12 NIV**

**Taking this verse into consideration, what do you think Paul meant when he said, “I have fought the good fight?” How can you fight the good fight in your life?**

### **Read Hebrews 12:1-3 NIV**

**The author of Hebrews highlighted two critical things we must do to run the race set before us. What are they? How can you commit to both of these as you run the race set before you?**

### **Read Romans 5:1-5 ESV**

**Taking Romans into consideration, how might “keeping the faith” transform every aspect of your life even in the most difficult of situations?**

## MOVE

Pouring our lives out as an offering is much easier said than done. When you feel like you're losing the fight it's hard to remain steadfast. When the finish lines in life keep getting pushed back just beyond your reach and you're exhausted, it's no wonder so many of us stop running. And when it seems like we just can't catch a break from all of the obstacles, setbacks and tragedies in life, feelings of hopelessness, isolation and despair start to destroy what little faith we have left. If you're feeling this way, Know you're not alone.

### **Read 2 Corinthians 12:8-10 NIV**

**What have you been pleading for the Lord to take away from you or provide for you?**

**What is the biggest obstacle in your life right now that you can't see a way around, or feel too weak to overcome? How can you let go of your need to be strong on your own and invite the Lord to be your strength through your weakness?**

**Take a second and rank the three commitments Paul listed (fight the fight, run the race, keep the faith) and rank them from 1-3, 1 being the one you feel strongest in, and 3 being the one you feel the weakest in. Share with the group, then find someone whose weakest strength is your greatest strength and spend this upcoming week pouring into them. Find someone who can do the same for you.**

## P R A Y

Today, pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to rest upon you and be your strength when you are weak. Pray that when you fall short, he will fill in the gaps. Pray for a spirit of boldness and courage to fight the good fight; the endurance and discipline to run the race set before you; and a strengthened relationship and closer proximity to Jesus so that you can keep the faith in every situation that arises.