



Introduction:

- Not everybody who starts a race finishes the race. Mishaps happen along the way and cyclists drop out. Unfortunately, the same is true in the Christian life.
- But Scripture puts a high priority on finishing the race strong.
- You can go the distance, but you *MUST*:

1. Surround Yourself With Godly People Who Will _____

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses...

My "cloud of witnesses:"

Who I am "cheering on:"

2. Get Rid of _____

...let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.

Hindrances –

No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs – he wants to please his commanding officer.

II Timothy 2:4

Sin –

3. Think _____ Over Speed

*And let us run with perseverance **the race marked out for us.*** (emphasis added)

But he knows the way that I take; and when He has tested me I will come forth as gold.

Job 23:10

The fact that God knows you is the hinge pin that secures the truth of Scripture to your life. Truth and doctrine and everything God has revealed become personal because God declares that He knows you. He knows everything about you. He knows the way that you take.

James MacDonald, **When Life is Hard**, p. 21

4. Cultivate _____ With Jesus

*Let us **fix our eyes on Jesus**, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. **Consider him** who endured such opposition from sinful men.* (emphases added)

Fix our eyes/consider –

But *WHY* cultivate a deeper personal relationship with Jesus?

- He is the author and perfecter of our faith.
- He endured the cross.
- He endured opposition from sinful men.
- He is the _____.

Conclusion:

You can Finish Strong!

Just do _____!