

Finish Strong Pt. 1

Discussion Notes- October 26, 2025

1. When you hear the phrase *"finish strong,"* what comes to mind?

The call to *finish strong* reminds us that God honors those who stay faithful to His purpose even when the journey feels long. Elijah's ministry was coming to an end, but Elisha's persistence and loyalty positioned him to receive a double portion of God's Spirit. When we walk with God, some people may stop walking with us, but that's often the cost of true obedience and sacrifice. God shows us the direction but not always the distance, teaching us to walk by faith and not by sight. As we seek first His Kingdom, we're invited to trust that every act of faith and sacrifice will make an eternal impact.

Read 2 Kings 2:9-12

"When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you.' And Elisha said, 'Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me.' And he said, 'You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so.' And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it and he cried, 'My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!' And he saw him no more."

In 2 Kings 2, God is preparing Elijah to be taken to heaven and Elisha to take his place. Along the journey, Elijah repeatedly tells Elisha to stay behind, but Elisha persistently refuses, showing his commitment to God's calling. Before departing, Elijah asks Elisha what he desires, and Elisha boldly requests a double portion of his spirit. When Elijah is taken up, Elisha picks up his cloak, performs miracles like parting the Jordan, and steps fully into God's work, continuing and expanding the ministry.

2. Why do you think Elisha's determination to not leave Elijah mattered so much in the story?

Read Matthew 6:25-26, 31-33

"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ... Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

Jesus is teaching His followers not to worry about daily needs like food, drink, and clothing. He reminds them that God cares for the birds of the air and the lilies of the field, and if God provides for them, He will certainly provide for His people. The key instruction in verse 33 is to

“seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness”, trusting that everything else will follow. This passage encourages believers to keep God first as they pursue big goals and sacrificial projects, like building the church or stepping into God’s calling. Just as Elisha persisted with Elijah and trusted God for the double portion, we are called to stay faithful, give sacrificially, and trust God to provide for what He is asking us to do. When we focus on God first, we can finish strong, knowing that the blessings and resources needed will follow according to His timing and plan.

3. What are some areas in your life where worry or fear has kept you from fully trusting God?

Read Psalm 78:4-7

“We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done. He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.”

Psalm 78 emphasizes remembering God’s faithfulness and passing it on to future generations. Verses 4–7 highlight the responsibility to teach children about God’s deeds, power, and commandments so they will trust Him, remember His works, and continue obeying Him. Like Elijah mentoring Elisha, these verses show that finishing strong isn’t just personal—it’s about leaving a spiritual legacy that equips the next generation to follow God faithfully.

4. What are some ways we can pass on God’s faithfulness and His Word in our families, church, or community?

Read Hebrews 12:1-2

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”

We are encouraged to **finish strong** by running our race with perseverance, just like Elisha stayed faithful with Elijah. The scripture above reminds us that our persistence not only impacts our own journey but also sets an example for the next generation.

5. How can you run your race with perseverance this week in a way that inspires and equips the next generation to trust God and finish strong too?

Prayer/Closing:

- Pray for strength to finish strong in your personal walk with God.

- Pray for the church to successfully complete the new building project.
- Pray for the next generation to grow in faith and trust God.

Deeper Dive:

Staying Faithful When It Would Be Easier to Walk Away

Read Together: 2 Kings 2:1–10 (ESV)

Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. And Elijah said to Elisha, “Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel.

And the sons of the prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?” And he said, “Yes, I know it; keep quiet.”

Elijah said to him, “Elisha, please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho.

The sons of the prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know it; keep quiet.”

Then Elijah said to him, “Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on.

Fifty men of the sons of the prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan.

Then Elijah took his cloak and rolled it up and struck the water, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you.” And Elisha said, “Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me.”

And he said, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so.”

Discussion:

Elijah tells Elisha **three different times** to stop following him — but Elisha refuses to leave.

His **faithfulness positioned him for the blessing** God had prepared for him.

Elisha didn’t know how long the journey would be. He didn’t know where it was headed.

But he stayed faithful — even when it would have been easier to stop.

In what area of your life is God calling you to stay faithful right now — even when it may require trust or perseverance?

Possible areas to consider:

- **Generosity** (trusting God with finances, giving sacrificially, committing over time)
- **Prayer life** (remaining consistent even when you don’t feel results yet)
- **Family relationships** (continuing to love, forgive, or invest)

- **Serving** (staying committed to ministry or helping others)
- **Spiritual growth** (reading Scripture, worship, fasting, obedience)
- **Calling / Purpose** (continuing on a path God has set for you, even without full clarity)

Finish Strong Campaign Snapshot

Theme: *Finish Strong — For Pittsburgh. For the Next Generation. For Christ.*

Goal: Raise **\$3 million over 3 years**, *above and beyond* regular giving.

Theme Verse:

John 9:4 (ESV) — *“We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day...”*

Project 6:33 — Pray First

We are asking everyone to **seek God first** during this season.

- **Based on** Matthew 6:33 — *“Seek first the kingdom of God...”*
 - **Set an alarm for 6:33 PM** daily.
 - When it goes off: **Pause. Pray for the church. Pray for wisdom. Pray for faith.**
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Upcoming Events

Men’s Steelers Tailgate Party

Sunday, Nov. 2 · 12:30 PM · The Café

- Food & fellowship
- Steelers on the big screen
- **Steelers ticket giveaways**
- Brief campaign vision update

Women’s Night

Friday, Nov. 7 · 6:30 PM · The Café

- Watch a clean comedian on Netflix together
 - Games, laughter, community
 - **Lots of giveaways**
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Commitment Weekend

November 15–16 (All Services)

- Each family will bring their **three-year pledge** and we will commit together as a church.
 - Includes a **First Fruits Offering** — our goal is for this to be the **largest offering in our church’s history** to launch the project strong.
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Ways to Give

Your giving can be structured **weekly, monthly, or yearly**.

You may give through:

- Check
- Online / automatic giving
- Stock gifts

Every gift is above and beyond normal giving.