

TITLE: The Author And Finisher Of Our Faith [Running The Race Of Faith] **Ang Tagasulat at Tagatapos ng Ating Pananampalataya**

TEXT: Hebrews 12: 1-2

DATE: January 16, 2022

B.I.: Christian life is likened to a gruelling marathon where the way to endure and finish is to focus on Jesus. **Ang buhay Kristiyano ay parang isang mahabang takbuhin na ang tanging paraan para matapos ay ang pagtuon ng paningin kay Hesus.**

INTRO:

- Have you ever been frustrated about how your life is going and there is this strong desire to quit? Let me tell you to keep on running and never give up! **Nawalan ka na ba ng gana sa kinapupuntahan ng buhay mo at nais mo nang huminto? Magpatuloy kang tumakbo at huwag huminto.**
- *"God never said that the journey would be easy, but He did say that the arrival would be worthwhile" - Max Lucado.* If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it. **Kung dinala ka ng Diyos sa dulo ng lakbayin mo, dinala ka Niya sa pamamagitan nito.**
- Jesus, **The Author And Finisher Of Our Faith!" Si Hesus, ang may akda at taga kumpleto ng ating pananampalataya.**
- Jesus has many names, but Author and Finisher are distinctly related to a life of faith. Christ taught a way of living for God and others demonstrated by justice, kindness and humility. [Micah 6:8]. **Maraming pangalan si Hesus at ang May Akda at Tagapagtapos ay may kinalaman sa buhay pananampalataya. Itinuro ni Kristo ang isang buhay para sa Diyos at para sa iba na nagpapakita ng hustisya, kabutihan, at kababaang loob.**
- Christians who live by faith praise and worship God, repent of their sins, and demonstrate maturity of the faith by their increasing submission to His authority. **Ang mga Kristiyano na nabubuhay sa pananampalataya ay nagppupuri sa Diyos, nagsisisi sa kanilang kasalanan, at nagpapakita ng ganap na pananampalataya sa pamamagitan ng pagsunod sa awtoridad ng Diyos.**
- The author of Hebrews is comparing the Christian life to a marathon race that requires endurance and preparation. **Itinulad ng may akda ng Hebreo ang buhay Kristiyano sa isang marathon race na nangangailangan ng tatag at paghahanda.**

**BODY: Running The Race Of Faith**

**I. THE PROBLEM: The Sin Of Unbelief **Ang kasalanan ng kawalan ng pananampalataya****

*"..let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us." [v.1b]*

- Christianity is not just for self-preservation or self-gratification. It's not about the benefits that we can get from the Lord. You didn't get saved for the benefits, you were saved to become what God created you to be, to become what He sacrificed for. **Ang Kristiyanismo ay hindi lamang para sa pangangalaga o pagbibigay kasiyahan sa sarili. Hindi ito tungkol lamang sa mga benepisyo na**

makukuha natin mula sa Diyos. Tayo ay kailangang maging ayon sa plano at dahilan ng Diyos kung bakit tayo nilikha.

- First of all, we need to acknowledge that if we are to run the race of faith we need to lay aside some things. V.1 says:
- **Kailangan nating aminin na kung tayo ay tatakbo sa karera ng pananampalataya, may mga bagay tayong dapat isantabi. Sabi sa v.1...**
- **Every weight:** I.e, things which slow down our spiritual progress. Such things make "running the race of faith" difficult, if not impossible! **Bawat pabigat - ano man na makakapagpabagal sa ating spiritual na pag-usad. Ang mga bagay na ito ang nagpapahirap sa ating pagtakbo sa pananampalataya.**
- **And the sin which so easily ensnares us:** From the context, I understand "the" sin to be the "sin of unbelief". I want to focus on this because UNBELIEF is the antithesis of Faith. The greatest hindrance that Christians face is unbelief and the number of unbelieving believers are growing! Many Christians today have so much head knowledge about Christ but haven't displayed the kind of belief that will prove their faith. **Ang kasalanang sumisilo sa atin - ang kasalanan ng kawalan ng pananampalataya. Ito ang pinakamatinding sagabal na hinaharap ng isang Kristiyano. Siya ay maraming kaalaman patungkol kay Hesus ngunit hindi naman naisasabuhay ang pananampalataya.**
- Unbelief grieves the heart of God more than any other sin. **Ang kawalan ng pananampalataya ay nagpapalungkot sa puso ng Diyos higit sa lahat.**
- I have known Christians who forsake every sin of the flesh they can think of but in spite of "cleaning up their act," they are still restless and dissatisfied. They mistakenly thought God would be pleased if they forsook their secret sin, that the blessings would flow automatically. But sins of the flesh are only part of the problem. They learned only to fear the Lord but not to trust him, and fear almost always gives birth to unbelief. **May mga Kristiyano na tinalikuran ang kasalanan ng laman ngunit hindi mapakali at hindi pa rin kuntento. Akala nila, kapag tinalikuran nila ang mga nakatago nilang kasalanan, matutuwa ang Diyos sa kanila, at dadaloy ang mga pagpapala. Ngunit ang kasalanan ng laman ay parte lang ng suliranin. Ang Kristiyanong ito ay natututo lamang matakot sa Diyos, hindi ang magtiwala sa Kanya.**
- Through his Word God has graciously provided a sure way to have absolute confidence in him. **Sa pamamagitan ng Kanyang Salita, ang Diyos ay nagbigay ng paniguradong daan para pagtiwalaan natin Siya.**
- A person who is wise hears and applies and becomes what he heard. This year 2022, Jesus wants to re-introduce Himself to us in a fresher way so we can truly believe and follow His Word. **Ang isang marunong na tao ay nadirinig at naisasabuhay ang kanyang naririnig. Ngayong taon, gusto ng Diyos na muling ipakilala ang sarili Niya sa atin sa isang makabagong paraan ng sa ganoon ay maniwala at sumunod tayo sa Kanyang Salita.**

## II. THE PURSUIT: Finish The Race Of Faith **Tapusin ang Karera ng Pananampalataya**

*"... let us run with endurance the race that is set before us." [v.1c]*

- This is an image of an athletic competition. We see then that the life of faith is like a race that must be run with endurance so that the finish line may be crossed and the prize received. **Ito ay parang imahen ng isang kompetisyon ng palakasan. Ang buhay pananampalataya ay parang isang karera na dapat takbuhin ng may tatag para makatapos at makuha ang pabuya.**
- The “race of faith” is a marathon and not a sprint. It does not require one quick burst of energy since the race is soon over. This "race" requires a sustained effort over a long period of time. **Ang karera na ito ay parang isang marathon, hindi isang maikling takbuhang lamang na kakaunting lakas lamang ang kakailanganin.**
- When you are running a race, endurance is needed. If you do not have endurance, you are likely to stop halfway or give up because you are burnt out or tired. Do not give up! The Bible says that those who endure to the end shall be saved. **Kapag ikaw ay tumatakbo, kailangan ng lakas. Kung wala ka nito, hihinto ka na lang sa gitna o hindi na tutuloy dahil sa pagod. Huwag hihinto! Ang mga nagpapatuloy ay maliligtas!**
- Endurance requires constant practice. A weak spirit will easily fold under pressure but a strengthened spirit is able to endure and not be shaken. **Kailangan ng ensayo para lumakas. Ang isang mahinang espiritu ay madaling bumigay sa laban, ngunit ang malakas na espiritu ay magpapatuloy.**
- Abiding in the word of God and praying continuously are practical steps that you can take to help you to build your endurance. **Ang pananatili sa Salita ng Diyos at ang patuloy na pananalangin at mga hakbang upang magpalakas.**

### **III. THE PATTERN: Jesus ,The Author & Finisher Of Our Faith **Si Hesus, ang may akda at kumukumpleto sa ating pananampalataya****

*“...looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” [v.2]*

- No story is any good if the author starts it but does not finish it. Jesus is an author who finishes his work. Christ’s work is to perfect our faith, so we may endure through many trials until finally glory comes and we live happily ever after. Every day Jesus is helping this story to be finished, and we should consider how he is doing this. Jesus helps us to endure until the end. **Walang magandang storya na hindi tapos. Ang gawa ni Kristo ay kumpletuhin ang ating pananampalataya, upang tayo ay mapalakas sa gitna ng mga pagsubok hanggang ang Kanyang kaluwalhatian ay dumating. Sa bawat araw, si Hesus ay tumutulong na tapusing ang storyang ito. Tinutulungan Niya tayong maging malakas hanggang sa katapusan.**
- Christ’s example of faithfulness through every trial and temptation, helps us to confidently trust him and continue to follow him to the end. [Heb.12:3] **Ang halimbawa ni Hesus ng katapatan sa gitna ng mga pagsubok ang tumutulong sa atin na magtiwala sa Kanya at sumunod sa Kanya hanggang sa katausan.**
- **How Is Jesus the Author of This Faith?** Jesus Christ pioneered the new Way by his example, his teaching, and everything Jesus told us to do he did first. He submitted to the will of the Father: “not my will, but yours” [Lk.22:42]. **Paano**

nasabi na si Hesus ang may akda ng pananampalataya? Siya ang nanguna sa bagong daan na ito sa pamamagitan ng Kanyang halimbawa, katuruan, at lahat ng sinabi ni Hesus na gawin natin ay una na Niyang nagawa. Siya ay sumunod sa kalooban ng Ama.

- **How Is Jesus the Finisher of Faith? Paano nasabi na siya ang kumumpleto ng pananampalataya?**
- Christ ministered to the people, taught them to know God, to love Him, and to love each other, then died and rose again. After a short period of continued ministry, which enabled Christ to prove he had risen from the dead, he concluded his work on earth. **Si Kristo ay nag minister sa mga tao, nagturo sa kanila na kilalanin ang Diyos, mahalin Siya at ang kapwa. Siya ay namatay at nabuhay na muli. Pagkatapos Niyang mapatunayan ito, tinapos na Niya ang gawain Niya sa lupa.**
- *"For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him."* -Colossians 1:16
- **Jesus succeeded in running the race by looking at "the joy set before Him."** The "joy" that inspired Him was likely that privilege of being seated at God's right hand [Acts 2:25-31]. With the anticipation of such "joy", Jesus... "endured the cross" (the physical pain) and "despised the shame" (the emotional and spiritual agony). **Nagtagumpay si Hesus sa karera sa pamamagitan ng pagtingin sa kasiyahan na inilagay sa harapan Niya. Ang kasiyahan na ito ang siyang nagbigay inspirasyon sa Kanya - ang pribilehiyo na umupo sa kanan ng Ama.**
- Just as Jesus looked at the joy set before Him, so we must look to Jesus! We must **"consider Him."** Meditating upon our Lord will prevent us from becoming "weary and discouraged in your souls" **Kagaya ng pagtingin ni Hesus sa kasiyahang ito, tayo naman ay tumingin kay Hesus! Ang pagbubulay bulay sa Kanya ang hahadlang sa pagod at pagkadismaya sa ating kaluluwa.**

**CHALLENGE:** Christianity is Christ living in me and through me to His glory. **It is not how you start that matters; it is how you finish.** Jesus made clear that those who endure to the end will be saved. The finish line of the race is Christlikeness. He is growing us and maturing us on this racecourse to look like Jesus Christ. And of course, ultimately the finish line is out there in eternity, in heaven. [James 1:12]

**HAMON:** Ang Kristiyanismo ay si Hesus na nananahan sa akin at sa pamamagitan ko para sa Kanyang kaluwalhatian. Hindi mahalaga kung paano nagsimula. Mas mahalaga kung paano natapos. Malinaw na sinabi ni Hesus na ang magpapakatatag hanggang sa huli ay maliligtas. Ang dulo ng karera ay ang pagiging kawangis ni Hesus, at ito ay matatagpuan sa langit, sa buhay na walang hanggan.