

Unstoppable

Finishing Strong

April 6 & April 9, 2017

(Hebrews 12:2-3 MSG) Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: Cross, shame, whatever. And now he's there, in the place of honor, right alongside God. When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he plowed through. That will shoot adrenaline into your souls!

Study How He Did It

(Mark 15:34) Then Jesus called out with a loud voice, "My God, my God, why have you deserted me?"

1. Turn to God immediately.

✓ Seek to trust.

(Proverbs 3:5 NLT) Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

✓ Seek to learn.

(Hebrews 5:8 NLT) Even though Jesus was God's Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered.

✓ Seek to worship.

(Hebrews 12:28-29 NLT) Since we are receiving a Kingdom that is unshakable, let us be thankful and please God by worshipping him with holy fear and awe. For our God is a devouring fire.

(John 19:28) After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said in fulfillment of the Scripture, "I am thirsty."

2. Acknowledge your need to others.

✓ Be honest about your feelings.

(Psalm 32:3-4 NLT) When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.

✓ Be honest about your fear.

(Ecclesiastes 4:12) A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.

✓ Be honest about your faults.

(James 5:16) Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

(John 19:30) When Jesus had tasted it, he said, "It is finished!" Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

3. Know your pain has a purpose.

✓ My struggles are temporary.

(2 Timothy 4:18) The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

✓ My struggles give me strength.

(1 Peter 5:10 NLT) In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation.

✓ My struggles will help others.

(2 Corinthians 1:3-4) Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

(Luke 23:46) Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

4. Surrender your whole life to God.

✓ Refuse to worry.

(Psalm 31:4-5) Free me from the trap that is set for me, for you are my refuge. Into your hands I commit my spirit; redeem me, O LORD, the God of truth.

✓ Live one day at a time.

(Matthew 6:34) "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

✓ Put God first.

(Matthew 6:33) "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."