

The Subtle Dangers of Contentment, Convenience, and Complacency (4)**Sermon Title: The Subtle Dangers of Contentment, Convenience, and Complacency****IV. COMPLACENCY — THE SILENT KILLER OF SPIRITUAL FIRE****II. A Word to the Older Believers — “Finish with Fire, Not Fatigue”****1. Your Race Is Not Finished Yet**

Scripture:

[2 Timothy 4:7 NKJV](#)⁷ **I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.**[2 Timothy 4:7 \(Reverse for Clarity\)](#)⁷ **“If I had refused to fight the good fight, neglected to finish the race, and abandoned the faith, my life would have ended in defeat. But I did not — I stood firm, ran faithfully, and guarded the faith until the end.”****I. Introduction: “Your Race Is Not Finished Yet”**

There is something profoundly inspiring about a runner who refuses to quit—even when the body aches and the crowd grows silent. The Apostle Paul, standing at the edge of eternity, looked back on his life with joy, not sorrow. His declaration, *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith,”* rings with victory.

Paul’s words are not the sigh of a defeated man but the testimony of a faithful servant who endured storms, persecution, betrayal, and imprisonment—and still finished strong. The Christian life, he reminds us, is not about speed but steadfastness, not about earthly trophies but eternal reward. Paul’s race was marked by scars, tears, and triumphs. Yet he ran it knowing that Christ was both the source of his strength and the goal of his journey. And his message to us is clear: *your race is not finished yet*. If you are still breathing, God is still working.

Modern-Day Illustration: “The Marathon of Faith”

In the 1968 Olympics, Tanzanian runner John Stephen Akhwari fell early in the marathon, dislocating his knee. Bleeding and limping, he refused to quit. Hours after the winner crossed the line, Akhwari entered the stadium alone. The crowd rose to its feet as he hobbled across the finish line.

When asked why he didn’t quit, he replied, “My country did not send me 5,000 miles to start the race; they sent me to finish it.” Paul could have said the same of his calling: God did not call him to start the race of faith, but to finish it faithfully. The same is true for you. No matter your age, failures, or fatigue—God has not released you from the race. Keep running. Keep believing. Keep the faith.

II. Background of the Text: Paul’s Final Testimony

Paul wrote [2 Timothy](#) from a Roman prison around A.D. 66–67, shortly before his martyrdom under Emperor Nero. His tone is not of *despair* but of *completion*. This was his final letter, his farewell address to his beloved disciple, Timothy—a young pastor in Ephesus facing discouragement and growing opposition.

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Paul's message throughout the letter is one of enduring faithfulness.

- ***“Preach the Word.” (2 Tim. 4:2)***

2 Timothy 4:2 NKJV

² Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

- ***“Be watchful... endure afflictions.” (2 Tim. 4:5)***

2 Timothy 4:5 NKJV

⁵ But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

- ***“Fulfill your ministry.” (2 Tim. 4:5)***

2 Timothy 4:5 NKJV

⁵ But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Then, in **verse 7**, Paul summarizes his life in three powerful phrases:

2 Timothy 4:7 NKJV

⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

1. **“I have fought the good fight.”** — The courage of a soldier who never deserts his post.
2. **“I have finished the race.”** — The endurance of a runner who refuses to quit.
3. **“I have kept the faith.”** — The loyalty of a steward who guards a precious trust.

This is the testimony of a man who gave everything for Christ and received everything in return. The message resounds across centuries: “Your race is not finished yet.” Until the Lord calls you home, there are still prayers to pray, souls to reach, and faith to keep.

II. A Word to the Older Believers — “Finish with Fire, Not Fatigue”

1. Your Race Is Not Finished Yet

Scripture:

2 Timothy 4:7 NKJV

⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Teaching: The enemy wants to convince seasoned saints that their best years are behind them. But Caleb at 85 said, “Give me this mountain!” (**Joshua 14:12**).

Joshua 14:12 NKJV

¹² Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the Lord spoke in that day; for you heard in that day how the Anakim *were* there, and *that* the cities *were* great *and* fortified. It may be that the Lord *will be* with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the Lord said.

Illustration: Like Simeon and Anna in **Luke 2**, your prayers and faithfulness still prepare the way for Christ's work in others.

E. Application

Examine yourself: Has spiritual passion cooled?

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- Has your spiritual fire faded?
- Has your zeal for the Lord diminished?
- Has devotion grown cold?
- Has your passion for Christ weakened?
- Is your spiritual fervor declining?
- Has your heart for God cooled off?
- Has your enthusiasm for the things of God waned?
- Has your spiritual intensity lessened?
- Has your fire for the Gospel gone out?
- Has your love for God lost its heat?
- Has spiritual excitement turned lukewarm?
- Has your hunger for God become dull?
- Has your worship lost its passion?
- Has the flame of faith flickered low?
- Is your spiritual temperature dropping?

Has your church stopped expecting God to do great things?

- Has our church lost its expectation for God's mighty works?
- Has our church ceased anticipating God's power?
- Has our church stopped believing God for the impossible?
- Has our church quit looking for God to move in miraculous ways?
- Has our church's faith in God's great works faded?
- Has our church stopped trusting God to act powerfully among us?
- Has our church abandoned its hope for God's extraordinary intervention?
- Has our church given up on God doing wondrous things?
- Has our church lost its sense of divine expectancy?
- Has our church's anticipation of God's greatness diminished?
- Have we grown too comfortable to believe God for more?
- Have we settled for routine instead of revival?
- Have we lost the holy expectation that God still moves?
- Have we traded faith-filled anticipation for spiritual complacency?
- Have we stopped praying bold prayers for God to work?
- When did we stop expecting God to amaze us?
- When did our belief in God's mighty acts become small?
- What happened to our anticipation of God's supernatural power?
- Are we still expecting God to exceed our expectations?

If so, Jesus says, **"Be zealous and repent."** — [Revelation 3:19](#)

[Revelation 3:19 NKJV](#)

¹⁹ As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore, be zealous and repent.

[Revelation 3:19 Reverse for Clarity](#)

¹⁹ Those whom I do **not** love, I leave **unrebuked** and **unchastened**.

Therefore, remain **indifferent** and **unrepentant**, if you desire **spiritual death** rather than renewal.

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The Subtle Dangers of Contentment, Convenience, and Complacency (4)**2. Guard Against Routine Religion**

Scripture: [Isaiah 29:13](#) — “This people draw near with their mouths... but have removed their hearts far from Me.”

[Isaiah 29:13 NKJV](#)

¹³ Therefore the Lord said: “Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths And honor Me with their lips, But have removed their hearts far from Me, And their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men.

Teaching: Habit without heart leads to hollow worship. Ask the Holy Spirit to make familiar hymns sound new again, and Scripture feel alive again.

Illustration: A seasoned musician who stops practicing soon loses his touch; the same happens to the soul that stops seeking God daily.

3. Be a Mentor of Fire, Not Just Memory

Scripture: [Psalm 71:18](#) — “Now also when I am old and grayheaded... declare Your strength to this generation.”

[Psalm 71:18 NKJV](#)

¹⁸ Now also when *I am* old and grayheaded, O God, do not forsake me, Until I declare Your strength to *this* generation, Your power to everyone *who* is to come.

Teaching: The next generation doesn’t just need your stories—they need your passion. Pass the torch burning, not barely flickering.

Modern Example: An older believer who takes time to pray with a teenager after service leaves a legacy that no sermon alone can match.

V. PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Word	False Attitude	Result	God’s Remedy
Contentment (misapplied)	“We’re satisfied—no need to grow.”	Stagnation	Holy Discontent — Phil. 3:13–14
Convenience	“We’ll serve if it doesn’t cost too much.”	Shallow Commitment	Sacrificial Discipleship — Luke 9:23
Complacency	“We’re fine—no need to repent.”	Spiritual Death	Zealous Repentance — Rev. 3:19

Together, these three create a lukewarm church — 1) satisfied without Christ’s power, 2) comfortable without His call, and 3) respectable without His righteousness.

III. A Word to the Long-Standing Members Who Have Become Religious — “From Ritual to Relationship”**1. Beware of the Illusion of Spiritual Health**

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Scripture:

[Revelation 3:17 NKJV](#)

¹⁷ Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—

Teaching: Religion without repentance is a counterfeit revival. Complacency often disguises itself as maturity.

Illustration: Samson thought he still had power until he discovered God's Spirit had departed ([Judges 16:20](#)). The same danger haunts churches that keep programs but lose presence.

[Judges 16:20 NKJV](#)

²⁰ And she said, "The Philistines *are* upon you, Samson!" So, he awoke from his sleep, and said, "I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!" But he did not know that the Lord had departed from him.

2. Return to the Altar of Brokenness

Scripture:

[Psalms 51:17 NKJV](#)

¹⁷ The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart—These, O God, You will not despise.

Teaching: Renewal begins when we grieve over sin again. God never revives a heart that refuses to repent.

Modern Illustration: A church may have spotless facilities and excellent music, yet be spiritually barren if no tears of repentance ever fall.