

STAYING ON COURSE

(Gal 5:7 KJV) Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?

1. **RUNNING THE COURSE.**
 1. (1 Cor 9:24 KJV) Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.
 2. (Phil 3:14 KJV) I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

2. **YE DID RUN WELL, BUT WHO HINDERED YOU?**
 1. ***You had good intentions, but what happened?***
 2. ***Started fast--distractions.***
 3. ***The flesh is weak.*** (Mat 26:40 KJV) And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter,
 1. What, could ye not watch with me one hour?
 2. (Mat 26:41 KJV) Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.
 4. ***We can blame our problems on the weakness of the flesh.***
 1. No excuse--should do something about weakness.
 2. "That's the way I am; the way I'll always be."
 1. False belief: I am what I; I'm hopeless; I cannot change.
 2. What you're saying is, "I don't want to change."
 3. Leave me alone--I'm comfortable with my condition.
 - (1) There are no expectations.
 - (2) After all, I have a handicap.
 - (3) What can you expect of a guy with a pegleg?
 3. "You can't get blood out of a turnip."
 1. Who wants to go through the process of extracting the blood?
 2. You may be ruined as a turnip! Who wants a smashed turnip?

3. **GAL. 3:1. WHO HATH BEWITCHED YOU THAT YOU SHOULD NOT OBEY THE TRUTH?**
 1. V. 2. Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law or by the hearing of faith?
 2. V. 3. Are you so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?
 3. V. 5. He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?
 4. V. 6. Abraham believed God, and it was accounted unto him for righteousness.
 1. V. 7. They which are of faith are the children of Abraham.
 2. V. 8. And the scripture foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel with Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.
 3. V. 9. So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.
 4. V. 10. As many as are of the works of the law are under the curse.

5. V. 13. Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us:
6. V. 14. That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.
7. V. 16. Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

4. OUR JOB IS TO STAY ON COURSE AND TO FINISH.

1. ***Finish course with joy.*** (Acts 20:24 KJV) But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.
2. ***I have finished my course.*** (2 Tim 4:7 KJV) I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:
3. ***To finish work.*** (John 4:34 KJV) Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.
4. ***God is asking for total commitment.*** (Luke 14:26 KJV) If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. (Luke 14:27 KJV) And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. (Luke 14:28 KJV) For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? (Luke 14:29 KJV) Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, (Luke 14:30 KJV) Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. (Luke 14:31 KJV) Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? (Luke 14:32 KJV) Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassador, and desireth conditions of peace. (Luke 14:33 KJV) So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

5. STAYING ON COURSE BY THE DIRECTION OF THE VOICE OF GOD.

1. ***Paul*** (Ac. 27:10) "Sirs, I perceive that this voyage will be with hurt and much damage, not only of the lading and ship, but also of our lives."
 1. Did not heed; much damage to ship.
 2. Only through obedience to man of God were their lives spared.
2. ***If God would only speak to me.***
 1. He's already spoken.
 2. How many times does He have to repeat Himself?
3. ***God speaks through various means.***
 1. Wind, earthquake, fire. (1 Ki 19:9 KJV) And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah? (1 Ki 19:10 KJV) And he

said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away. (1 Ki 19:11 KJV) And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake: (1 Ki 19:12 KJV) And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire:

2. Still small voice. ...and after the fire a still small voice.
3. Voice in our ear. (Isa 30:21 KJV) And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.
4. ***Must have a trained ear.***
 1. Everybody can hear the thunder and see the lightning.
 1. Some have been hit by the lightning and still haven gotten the message.
 2. Hopefully, getting swallowed by a whale will get our attention.
 3. Or you should suspect something if your jackass tries to throw you off and then he starts talking to you!
 2. More difficult to hear small voice.
5. ***"The devil told me to do it."***
 1. Why are you listening to him?
 2. If there is a little demon sitting on your shoulder whispering in your ear, there's a big angel standing nearby!
6. STAYING ON COURSE BY THE DIRECTION OF THE WORD.
 1. ***Not followed fables.*** (2 Pet 1:16 KJV) For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.
 2. ***A heavenly voice.*** (2 Pet 1:17 KJV) For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. (2 Pet 1:18 KJV) And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.
 3. ***A more sure word.*** (2 Pet 1:19 KJV) We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:
 1. No private interpretation (2 Pet 1:20 KJV) Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.
 2. By the Holy Ghost. (2 Pet 1:21 KJV) For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.
 4. ***The direction of the Word.***
 1. (Psa 119:105 KJV) NUN. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

2. (Prov 4:18 KJV) But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.