

## Survival of The Fittest

The journey of life is a marathon race as described by Apostle Paul. *"I have finished my course."* The word 'course' is the Greek word 'dromos' which always describes foot race on a running track. This track is an awfully long prodding path of life. Life has a series of processes before one reach maturation in life. Observe that he referred to his life's calling as 'my course'. Paul knew exactly what race he was called to run, and he did not attempt to run anyone else course. He knew his life assignment. Do you precisely know the life mission of your existence?

Despite every obstacle along the way trying to slow him down, knock him out of the race, and defeat him, he refused to quit running! Perseverance is the golden virtue that crowns every finisher and winner in life. No matter what happened and the great odds forcing him, Paul just stayed right on track – true to the vision and the course God has given him. Did you allow the contrary words and the storms of life to sidetrack you from your main assignment? For 13 years, the enemy and the religious crowd had tried to force me to quit running the race on the track of prosperity and by His enabling grace, I refused to quit! I survived wonderfully today.

To be a victorious overcomer in this fallen world, you must stay true to your own inner convictions: *"But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy."* (Acts 20:24). Remember the golden rule of life: **Follow your heart, never the crowd!**

At the end of his life, he wrote to Timothy and triumphantly declared, *"I have fought a good fight."* (2 Tim 4:7). The word 'fought', and 'fight' are from the Greek word 'agonidzo'. This word means a struggle, a fight, a combat, or a fierce competition, and it is where we derived the word agony. By using this precise word, Paul informed us that his ministry was not a bed of roses. He frankly said it involved much sweating tough struggles, difficulties, and agonizing period of staying true to his course. Yet Paul never budged an inch! He stayed in the fight and was faithful to his call.

The psychology of winning according to Paul's experience involved an agonizing fight. I won my trophy of the fight of faith concerning prosperity but there are moments I felt I was deserted and forsaken to be left alone to face the ordeals of mocking persecutions and slanders. I shed many tears in silence and in my aloneness, God comforted my heart. As I chose to forgive my persecutors, I found new lease of life. It is never easy but it's all worth it at the end of the day: obtaining the gold medal of a winner as a peak achiever in that field.