

**Devotion 19**  
**Finish the Work**

**Thursday, Week 3**

*And here is my advice about what is best for you in this matter. . . . Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have. (2 Corinthians 8:10a, 11, 12)*

Do you ever have the problem of “following through” on things . . . seeing things through to the finish? I have to admit that I do. I have it all mapped out and decided in my head that it’s going to get done because it surely is worthwhile and should get done . . . but it doesn’t. Do you know what I mean? I’m sure you do. We all have good intentions, but our sinful nature gets in the way and we let opportunities slip away. That phone call to a friend or loved one, that birthday card or note of sympathy, that commitment we made to our spouse, child, or parent—or to our church.

On the other hand, when, by God’s grace, we *do* follow through on our good intentions, what a blessing it is! What a gift we give ourselves and the other! You know what I mean here, too, don’t you? It’s the joy of giving!

In our text, Paul, writing the very Word of God to the Corinthian Christians, is saying “here is my advice on this matter of giving—finish the work.” It is as if God is saying, “Do it willingly, according to your means (proportionately), and joyfully, but finish the work. You have been taught and led by the Holy Spirit through the Word. You have thought about it and prayed about it. You have expressed your willingness to give joyfully, generously, and sacrificially. Now do it! Finish the work!”

Our loving Heavenly Father, who knows us better than we know ourselves, is gently saying to us, “I know your heart. I know the decisions you have made there in willingness and joyfulness. But I also know your weakness because of sin. So don’t delay. Finish now. Do it. You’ll be glad you did!”

Once again, our greatest example is our Savior. The Bible says, “For the joy set before Him, He endured the cross, scorning its shame.” Jesus never wavered on the road to the cross. He saw it through; He finished the task once and for all. “It is finished.” Why did He do this? For you, the joy set before Him!

May each of us also find joy in the grace of Christian giving, reflecting the joy of our Savior! May we, like our Savior, follow through and finish well!

**Prayer:** Dear Jesus, thank You for finishing well for me in my place. By the Work of the Holy Spirit as He comes to me through His Word for today, empower me also to finish well as I look to make my sacrificial commitment. Amen.