

Tuesday, Oct 1, 2024

It's October! No time to be on Auto -pilot!

Greetings Family! It's October and we are in the final quarter of 2024. Can you believe it?! It seemed like only a few weeks ago that we opened the curtains to a new year. Where did the time go? Around the same time last year, a group of close friends and I were talking about the very theme we're looking at today. It's all about finishing strong! This has been an "end of the year" central theme of mine most of my adult life. I can't wait to share it...so here goes.

As we approach the end of the year, it's easy for us to simply go on autopilot, become complacent, and coast on through to the next year, but Scripture encourages us to keep going all the way to the end!!! The Apostle Paul calls us to *push forward* ...

"Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." - *Philippians 3:13 -14*

Along with the early Church, Paul says, "Listen, I'm not at the finish -line yet! I've come a long way but I still have much more in front of me. I'm pressing forward and I'm locked in on the prize that's right in front of me!" That's powerful! **Translation:** *It does matter how far you've come or accomplished...there is still time, so keep moving!!!*

The Enemy (Satan) wants us on *auto-pilot*. He wants us to coast during the final stretch. He wants us to believe it's already done, or it's too late. In other cases, he wants us to believe we've done all we can do this year, and to take the time to focus on a new plan (or vision) for the new year. But this family is a plot from hell itself!!!! **Don't fall for it.** Hear me when I say this, "*There is still time...don't waste it!*"

OK, PJ...I got it! Now what? I'm glad you asked. When it comes to finishing strong, there are a few things I would like for you to consider:

Take a look at the goals you established at the beginning of the year. How have you been doing? Are any completed? Any NOT started? Did you abandon them all together? Here is the key: *Is there a goal you can still strive toward by year-end?*

Focus on one area of your spiritual life that may have been neglected (Reading the Bible, Spending time in Prayer, being a part of a Connect group, or attending worship services, etc.). No worries here, but start now...commit to renewing your focus in that area over the next three months. As far as prayer, make this a part of all things in your life. Just invite Jesus into your day and remember to check -in with Him during the high and lows of the day!

Intentionally seek opportunities to make an impact! Look for opportunities to help others in need. Use your gifts and talents to serve others. Seek to engage people in front of you with a smile. Yes, a smile! 😊 (This goes a long way in shaping the other person's day!).

There are so many more things that we can do, but *the goal here is not to quit, or coast, but to do something that impacts* ourselves, our families, our community, our church, and the Kingdom of God!

Family, we can finish 2024 with the same energy and faith we started it. We can be just as excited and optimistic. We can let go of things that will slow us down. We can embrace new (short term) goals that will catapult us into 2025; *it just takes a decision* . We can do this...now, who's with me?!

Jewels and I are excited about what the next 90 -days will bring! Remember, you don't have to do this alone...we can do it together!

Blessings PJ