

Walking in the Word

Title: The Path to Finishing Well

Date: July 5, 2026

Scripture: Psalm 119:33–40

Speaker: Darrin Wright

Main Idea

No one finishes the race of faith well by self-reliance. We finish well because God faithfully preserves those who belong to Him.

Sermon in Brief

Psalm 119:33–40 teaches us that finishing well in the Christian life does not come through self-reliance, willpower, or a strong beginning. The psalmist prays eight humble prayers, asking God to teach him, give him understanding, lead him, bend his heart, turn his eyes, confirm His promises, protect his testimony, and revive his soul. This message reminds us that the path to finishing well is paved with dependent prayer and steady obedience to God's Word.

Main Points:

1. A Prayer for Instruction: *Lord, teach me.*
2. A Prayer for Illumination: *Lord, give me understanding.*
3. A Prayer for Direction: *Lord, lead me.*
4. A Prayer for Inclination: *Lord, bend my heart toward You.*
5. A Prayer for Purity: *Lord, turn my eyes from worthless things.*

Key Truths:

- A good beginning does not guarantee a good ending.
- We never graduate from God's classroom.
- God's path is steady, faithful obedience. Not life hacks and short cuts.
- Our hearts always move toward what they treasure.
- What captures our attention shapes our affection.

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Key Quotes

"The path to finishing well is paved with humble, dependent prayer."

"Whatever repeatedly captures your attention will eventually shape your affection."

"Your heart will follow what your eyes gaze upon."

"God's path is not a shortcut. It is steady, slow, faithful, ordinary obedience in the same direction for a long period of time."

Truth Meets Real Life

This message encourages those who...

Feel spiritually distracted.

Want to finish life faithfully.

Struggle with temptation.

Need renewed purpose.

Feel their love for Christ growing old.

Reflect & Respond

Where have I been relying on my own strength instead of praying dependently?

Do I still have a teachable spirit, or have I been coasting spiritually?

What "worthless things" most often capture my attention?

What old, well-worn paths of obedience do I need to return to?

Walking in the Word This Week

Each evening ask yourself:

What occupied my thoughts today? | What captured my eyes? | Did those things lead me toward Christ or away from Him?

Identify one "worthless thing" that consistently distracts you from Christ.

Replace 15 minutes of that activity with Scripture reading (Psalm 119 perhaps) and prayer. Ask God to replace a lesser affection with a greater delight in Him.

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