

Genesis Lesson 50

The sovereign will of God is done, in spite of our or any other person's opposition to it.

26:34 When Esau was forty years old, he took Judith the daughter of Beerli the Hittite to be his wife, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite,
35 and they made life bitter for Isaac and Rebekah.

Genesis 25:23 **23** And the LORD said to her: "Two nations are in your womb, two peoples shall be separated from your body; one people shall be stronger than the other, and the older shall serve the younger."

Genesis 25:28

28 And Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Genesis 27:1 When Isaac was old and his eyes were dim so that he could not see, he called Esau his older son and said to him, "My son"; and he answered, "Here I am."

2 He said, "Behold, I am old; I do not know the day of my death.

3 Now then, take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me,

4 and prepare for me delicious food, such as I love, and bring it to me so that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die."

Colossians 4:14 (NKJV)

14 Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you.

2 Timothy 4:10 (NKJV)

10 for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica...

Many become discouraged by hardships.

Many cease to grow spiritually and stagnate.

It has everything to do with SURRENDERING and devoting our life to the work Jesus has for us to do UNTIL THE DAY WE DIE.

IT HAS EVERYTHING TO DO WITH SPENDING THE TIME TO KNOW GOD MORE AT THE END OF OUR LIFE THAN AT THE BEGINNING.

Romans 14:8 (NKJV)

8 For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

Philippians 2

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

Many fall into sin and never recover spiritually.

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” (2 Tim. 4:7)

Dr. J. Robert Clinton, professor of leadership at Fuller Theological Seminary, has spent the past 15 years conducting extensive research on the lifelong development of Christian leaders.

In an exhaustive search of the Bible, he identified approximately 1000 leaders. Most were mentioned only by name. These included everything from Old Testament patriarchs, priests and military leaders to New Testament apostles, prophets, evangelists, teachers and pastors.

Sufficient information was available on only 49 prominent leaders to analyze how they finished.

The results are shocking. Only 30% of leaders in the Bible finished well. This means that 70% fell short of God’s plan for their lives.

This fact should jolt any present day leader or Christian who desires to count for God. These leaders are categorized below according to how they finished their ministry.

4 Ways They Finished

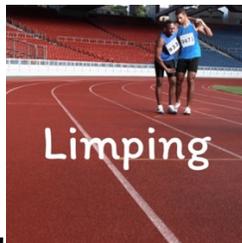


Leaders like Abraham, Joshua, Daniel, Paul and Peter enjoyed deepening intimacy with God throughout life. They never stopped learning and growing, even as mature leaders. They led with spiritual authority, for their followers recognized God’s hand on their lives. Fully

submitted to the Lord, they were developed toward full potential and used significantly to advance His purposes. They completed what God gave them to do.



Other leaders were slowed down in their ministry because of sin. They fell short of what God intended for their lives. The ramifications of disobedience to God at some point in their leadership continued to plague them, even though they may have been walking with God at the end. Such persons may include David, Jehoshaphat and Hezekiah.



These leaders finished the race in poor shape. They were on a decline in the latter phase of their ministry. This may have been reflected in their inner life with God or in their ministry effectiveness. Leaders in this category include Gideon, Eli and Solomon.



Some leaders were taken out of the race prematurely. They were removed from leadership by assassination, killed in battle, denounced or overthrown. We are not referring here to an honorable end like that of Stephen.

Rather, God removed leaders such as Samson, Absalom and Ahab because He was not pleased with them. It is a tragic thing when God regrets placing someone in leadership. The price is great: personal shame for the leader and damage to God's Kingdom.

While the interpretation of the date may be open for debate, the overall conclusion is abundantly clear. Few leaders finish well!

Only one in three biblical leaders fully cooperated with God over the long haul and experienced the corresponding results in ministry. Do you think the ratio has improved over the past 2,000 years?

A quick survey of scandals involving Christian leaders today would indicate that the situation hasn't improved at all.

5 Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to his son Esau. So when Esau went to the field to hunt for game and bring it,

6 Rebekah said to her son Jacob, "I heard your father speak to your brother Esau,

7 'Bring me game and prepare for me delicious food, that I may eat it and bless you before the LORD before I die.'

8 Now therefore, my son, obey my voice as I command you.

9 Go to the flock and bring me two good young goats, so that I may prepare from them delicious food for your father, such as he loves.

10 And you shall bring it to your father to eat, so that he may bless you before he dies."

11 But Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, "Behold, my brother Esau is a hairy man, and I am a smooth man.

12 Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be mocking him and bring a curse upon myself and not a blessing."

Genesis 27:13 His mother said to him, "Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, bring them to me."

14 So he went and took them and brought them to his mother, and his mother prepared delicious food, such as his father loved.

15 Then Rebekah took the best garments of Esau her older son, which were with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son.

16 And the skins of the young goats she put on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck.

17 And she put the delicious food and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob.

18 So he went in to his father and said, "My father." And he said, "Here I am. Who are you, my son?"

19 Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me; now sit up and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me."

20 But Isaac said to his son, "How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?" He answered, "Because the LORD your God granted me success."

21 Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are really my son Esau or not."

22 So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, who felt him and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau."

23 And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands. So he blessed him.

24 He said, "Are you really my son Esau?" He answered, "I am."

25 Then he said, "Bring it near to me, that I may eat of my son's game and bless you." So he brought it near to him, and he ate; and he brought him wine, and he drank.

26 Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come near and kiss me, my son."

27 So he came near and kissed him. And Isaac smelled the smell of his garments and blessed him and said, "See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field that the LORD has blessed!"

28 May God give you of the dew of heaven and of the fatness of the earth and plenty of grain and wine.

29 Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you. Be lord over your brothers, and may your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed be everyone who curses you, and blessed be everyone who blesses you!"

30 As soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, when Jacob had scarcely gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, Esau his brother came in from his hunting.

31 He also prepared delicious food and brought it to his father. And he said to his father, "Let my father arise and eat of his son's game, that you may bless me."

32 His father Isaac said to him, "Who are you?" He answered, "I am your son, your firstborn, Esau."

33 Then Isaac trembled very violently and said, "Who was it then that hunted game and brought it to me, and I ate it all before you came, and I have blessed him? Yes, and he shall be blessed."

**Did he
tremble
because he
knew that
God won?**

**God
wins.
Always.**

Genesis 50:20 (NKJV)

20 But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.



34 As soon as Esau heard the words of his father, he cried out with an exceedingly great and bitter cry and said to his father, "Bless me, even me also, O my father!"

35 But he said, "Your brother came deceitfully, and he has taken away your blessing."

36 Esau said, "Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has cheated me these two times. He took away my birthright, and behold, now he has taken away my blessing." Then he said, "Have you not reserved a blessing for me?"

37 Isaac answered and said to Esau, "Behold, I have made him lord over you, and all his brothers I have given to him for servants, and with grain and wine I have sustained him. What then can I do for you, my son?"

38 Esau said to his father, "Have you but one blessing, my father? Bless me, even me also, O my father." And Esau lifted up his voice and wept.

39 Then Isaac his father answered and said to him: "Behold, away from the fatness of the earth shall your dwelling be, and away from the dew of heaven on high.

40 By your sword you shall live, and you shall serve your brother; but when you grow restless you shall break his yoke from your neck."

41 Now Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him, and Esau said to himself, "The days of mourning for my father are approaching; then I will kill my brother Jacob."

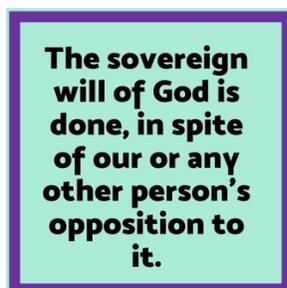
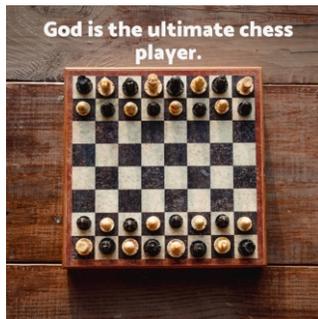
42 But the words of Esau her older son were told to Rebekah. So she sent and called Jacob her younger son and said to him, "Behold, your brother Esau comforts himself about you by planning to kill you.

43 Now therefore, my son, obey my voice. Arise, flee to Laban my brother in Haran

44 and stay with him a while, until your brother's fury turns away—

45 until your brother's anger turns away from you, and he forgets what you have done to him. Then I will send and bring you from there. Why should I be bereft of you both in one day?"

46 Then Rebekah said to Isaac, "I loathe my life because of the Hittite women. If Jacob marries one of the Hittite women like these, one of the women of the land, what good will my life be to me?"





2 Timothy 4:7 (NKJV)

7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.