FINISH *Strong*



DR. CHARITY WANGUI

FAITH · FRUITFULNESS · LEGACY

FINISH STRONG

Dr. Charity Wangui Maina

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Finish Strong

BY DR. CHARITY WANGUI MAINA

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the King James Version (KJV).

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Dedication

To every aging believer who still burns for God, who still stands in the gap, and who still declares truth across generations, this book is for you. Your faith is not in vain.

To the body of Christ, especially the younger generations, may you glean from the wisdom of those who have gone before you, and may their ceiling become your floor.

And finally, to every reader, thank you for taking this journey with me. May the grace that kept the pillars of faith, as recorded in Scripture, keep you. And may we all finish strong to the glory of God.

Acknowledgment

I lift my heart in gratitude to the Lord Jesus Christ, my Strength and my Song, who has carried me through every season of life and who continues to write His story through mine.

To my family, you are my joy and my testimony. Thank you for your patience, prayers, and steadfast love as I poured my heart into this book.

To my spiritual mentors, intercessors, and elders who have modeled what it means to walk with God through the decades, your legacy is the soil from which this message has grown.

To George, my steadfast companion and greatest earthly blessing. I pray we shall finish well together and live a legacy that impacts generations.

To Evelyn Njeri, Faith Wangari, and Kevin Waweru, my treasures and joy, may you run your race with fire and faith.

To my darling mother, Philomena Wangari, who has modeled Christ to me, faithful in church, devoted to family, and tireless in hard work. Your life is a living sermon, and I am forever grateful.

To my church family and my entire family, whose love, prayers, and fellowship have strengthened my journey.

This is for you, and for all who will finish strong.

Preface

The journey of faith is not a sprint; it is a lifelong race. Over the years, I have seen many believers start with great passion and conviction, only to lose momentum as life's seasons change. Some slow down, some drift quietly, and others stumble in the final stretch. Yet I am convinced — and Scripture affirms — that God calls us not only to begin well but to finish well.

This book was born out of a burden the Lord placed on my heart for those in the later years of life, as well as for younger believers preparing for that season. In ministry, I have walked with saints whose final chapters were their most fruitful, and I have also wept over those whose endings were marked by regret. The difference was not in age, ability, or circumstances — it was in vigilance, faith, and an unwavering commitment to the God who called them.

Finish Strong is my call to you — whether you are in your "fourth quarter" or still running your early laps — to keep your heart ablaze for God until your very last breath. It is both a warning and an encouragement, shaped by decades of ministry, rooted in biblical truth, and written with a deep love for the body of Christ.

My prayer is that as you turn these pages, you will hear the Spirit's call to renewed focus, holy determination, and joyful endurance.

May you not only cross the finish line but do so with your head lifted high, your faith intact, and your testimony shining for generations to come.

~ Dr. Charity Wangui Maina

Author's Note

There comes a time in one's walk with God when the urgency to finish well outweighs the applause of having started strong. This book was born from that holy burden.

As I reflect on the years behind me and the path that lies ahead, I recognize the increasing need for spiritual vigilance in the final stretch of life. The stories in Scripture, the examples of faithful saints, and my own personal encounters with God have all shaped the heart of this message.

This book is not merely a manual for aging gracefully in the Spirit; it is a call to arms for elder saints to actualize their faith and for younger believers to plan ahead. It is a trumpet sound urging all to stay awake, to remain burning, and to bear fruit until the very end. Every chapter is soaked in prayer, every scripture selected with care, and every line written with you, the seasoned believer, in mind.

May these words awaken your purpose, stir your passion, and strengthen your resolve to finish your race with fire, faith, and fruitfulness. I honor you, and I run beside you.

CHAPTER 01

1

The Battle Isn't Over

The War Doesn't Retire

> *"Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8 NIV).*

There is a silent but deadly assumption creeping into the hearts of many aging believers, the idea that spiritual warfare ends with age or that faith becomes passive in the sunset years. After decades of service, prayer, and ministry, some begin to think they have earned a season of spiritual rest. Yet heaven does not issue retirement packages, and the devil does not withdraw his schemes because a believer has grown older; in fact, his attacks often intensify.

Old age is not a season for spiritual cruise control; it is the final stretch of the race, the lap that counts the most. It is the time when the fruits of years of obedience should ripen into legacy, yet it is also the season when the enemy watches closely for an opportunity to cause a final stumble that could tarnish the testimony of a life once lived faithfully.

This chapter is a trumpet blast calling older saints to rise again, to remain watchful, and to refuse to die spiritually before their physical death. It is an appeal not to end their days merely with memories of what God once did through them, but to finish their course with the fire of active faith still burning brightly.

Spiritual Warfare Doesn't Retire

In Exodus 17, Moses raised his arms while Joshua fought in the valley. As long as Moses' arms remained lifted, Israel prevailed; when they lowered, the enemy gained ground. This image is a prophetic picture, reminding us that spiritual oversight remains vital even when you are no longer

in the thick of the valley's battles. From the mountaintop of age and experience, your prayers, watchfulness, and spiritual authority still shape outcomes in the lives of others.

Satan does not retire, nor does he lose interest. Your long walk with God makes you a high-value target, for the higher you have risen in faith, the greater the impact your fall would have across generations. This is why vigilance in old age must not decrease but instead grow stronger.

The Enemy's Strategy Against Elders

Satan's playbook for elders is subtle and calculated. It is characterized by:

- Distraction by comfort: He uses peace, routine, and familiarity to lull believers into a state of lowered vigilance.
- Seduction by entitlement: After years of service, the whisper comes, "You have done enough. Let others carry the burden."
- Attack through loneliness: He isolates to weaken and disarm you.
- Exploitation of unresolved wounds: Bitterness, regret, or unhealed memories can resurface, clouding the joy and clarity of your latter years. Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians 2:11, "…we are not ignorant of his devices." The enemy knows that a stumble in the final season can eclipse decades of faithful living. This is why finishing strong is not optional; it is essential.

Why Finishing Well Matters More Than Starting Well

Starting well is admirable, but it is finishing well that defines a legacy. Many biblical heroes began with zeal yet faltered in the end, Solomon, Asa, Gideon, and Eli serve as cautionary examples. Few, however, finished like Paul, who could confidently declare, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7).

Old age is not a diminishing season in God's economy; rather, it is a time of overflowing wisdom, final assignments, and generational influence. How you finish becomes the lasting aroma of your life, shaping the impact you leave behind. Will your final chapters exude the fragrance of unwavering faith, or will they carry the sting of regret?