

Lesson 11 – Unfinished Business

Finish it. Now.





UNFINISHED PROJECTS?

EVERYDAY **LOW PRICES** GUARANTEED

© 2008 by Lowe's. All rights reserved. Lowe's and the Lowe's design are registered trademarks of L.P., LLC.



Let's Build Something Together™

001037

Do You Have Any?















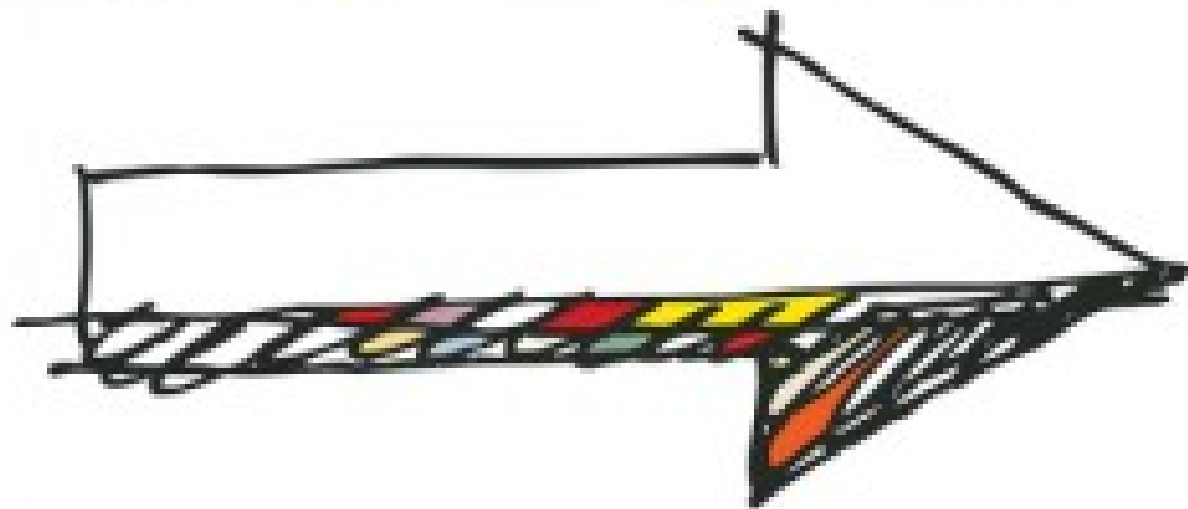








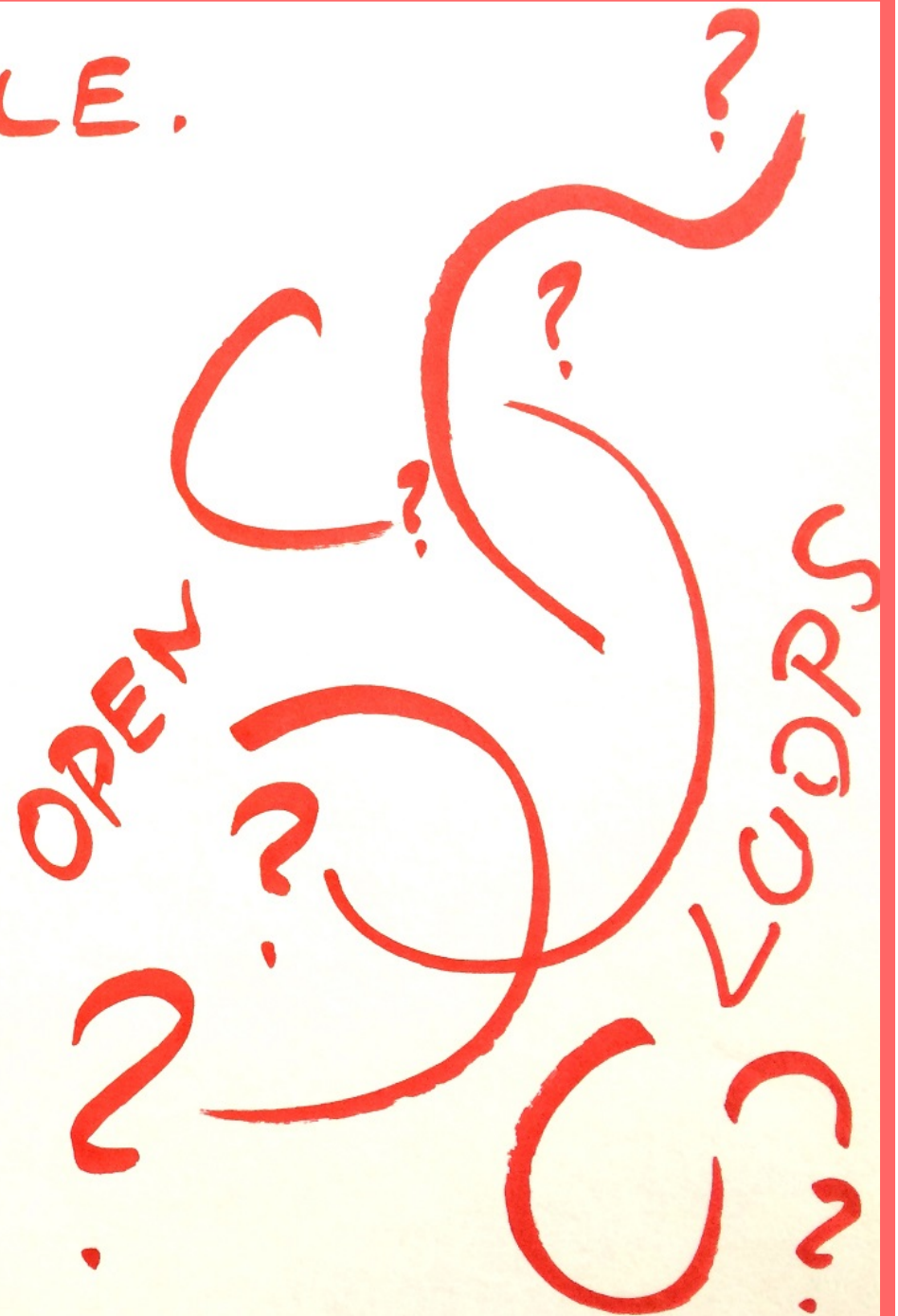
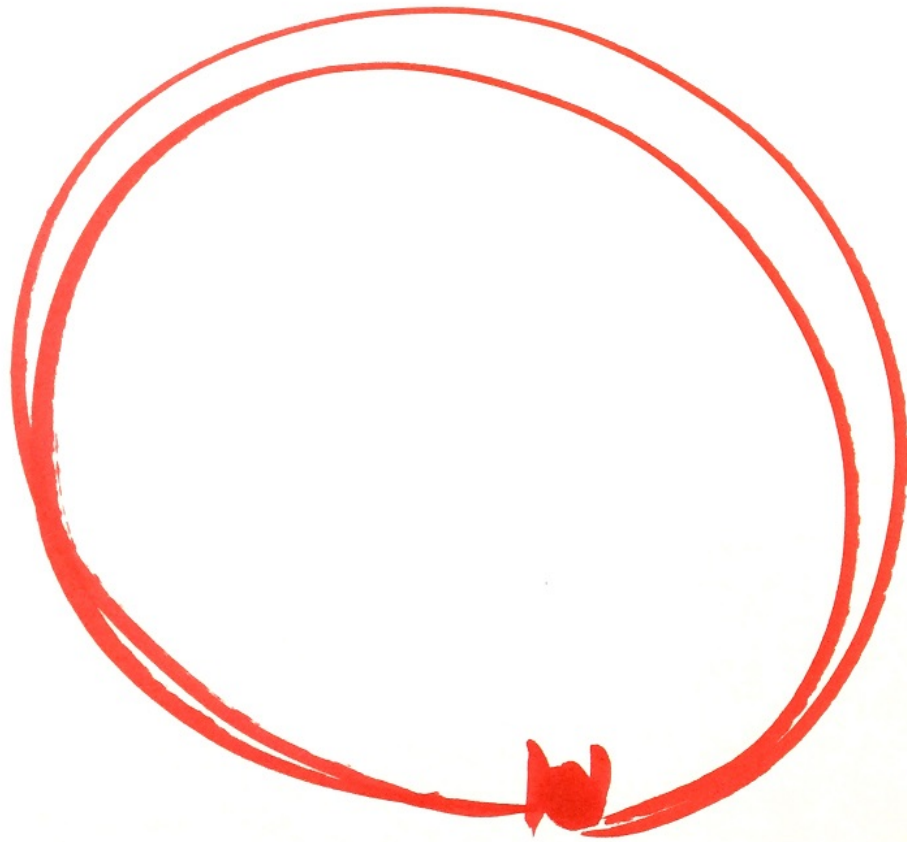
GARAGE
SALE







CLOSED CIRCLE.



Open Loops

Open loops are all the unfinished business that your mind keeps coming back to over and over again. Open loops distract you from the task at hand, and create stress.

Do you have unfinished projects which are distracting you and causing stress? There are some things which will never be finished, like dirty dishes, laundry, and yard work, no matter how hard you try. But what about those other things which compete for your energy and your attention?

Here's three ways to handle open loops.

Think I-C-E

IGNORE, COMPLETE, or ELIMINATE

IGNORE: (for now)

Some things can be put off for another time. That pile of photos you hoped to put into a scrapbook someday? If this is not the time of your life when you can sit for hours with glue dots and scissors and create a masterpiece, then put all the photos safely into boxes and store them out of sight. They will keep for another season.

Think I-C-E

IGNORE, COMPLETE, or ELIMINATE

COMPLETE:

After deciding what can be put off and what needs to be done now, start tackling some of the smaller jobs first to get them out of the way and have a sense of accomplishment. Then move on to larger tasks, one at a time until complete.

ELIMINATE:

Some open loops just clutter our minds and our homes. Like that second hand bargain piece of furniture which you intended to paint, but it ended up in the garage, buried under several other bargains you just couldn't pass up.

Once we pile up too many projects, they just become stressful reminders of our failure to get things done. Get rid of them. Donate them and close some of those open loops. Clearing the clutter from your environment can clear the clutter from your mind.



GOD
WILL
FINISH HIS
WORK IN YOU

PHILIPPIANS 1:6



For I am confident
of this very thing
that He who began
a good work in you
will perfect it
until the day of
Christ Jesus.

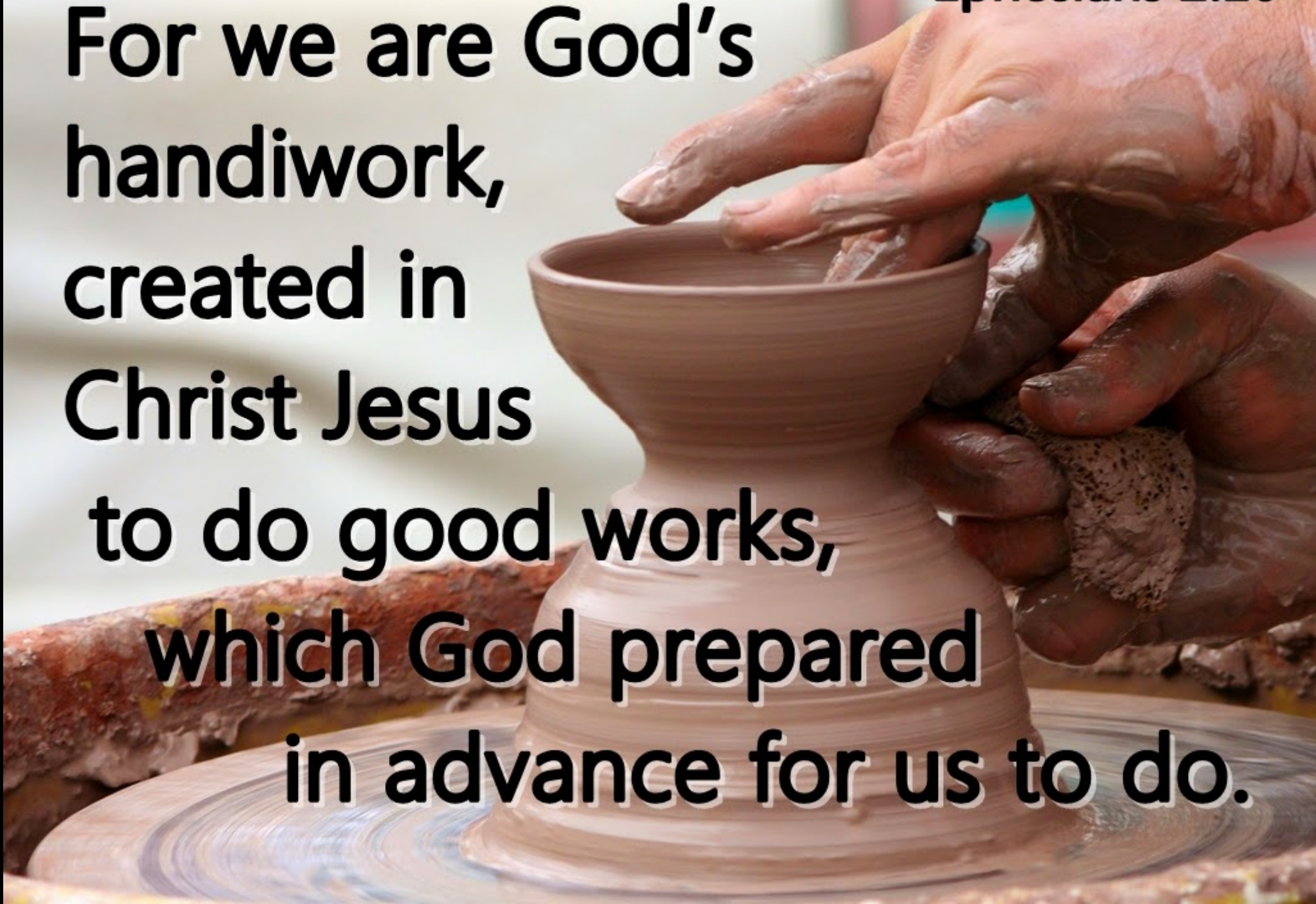
PHILIPPIANS 1:6

my *life* is worth
NOTHING
to me unless I use it for
finishing the work
ASSIGNED ME
by the LORD Jesus
the work of telling
OTHERS
the Good News about
the wonderful
Grace OF God

ACTS 20:24

Ephesians 2:10

**For we are God's
handiwork,
created in
Christ Jesus
to do good works,
which God prepared
in advance for us to do.**



**ACTION
REQUIRED**

God calls us to serve and He equips us to do so, but we need to be willing and obedient.

Let's look at some of the obstacles which get in the way of completing the work to which we have been called.

#1. Laziness

“Did she get tired, or did she just get lazy?”

Sometimes we're not physically tired, but mentally tired.

It takes stamina to complete the tasks God has prepared for us to complete.

LET US NOT BECOME

Weary

IN DOING
GOOD

FOR AT THE PROPER TIME

WE WILL

REAP A

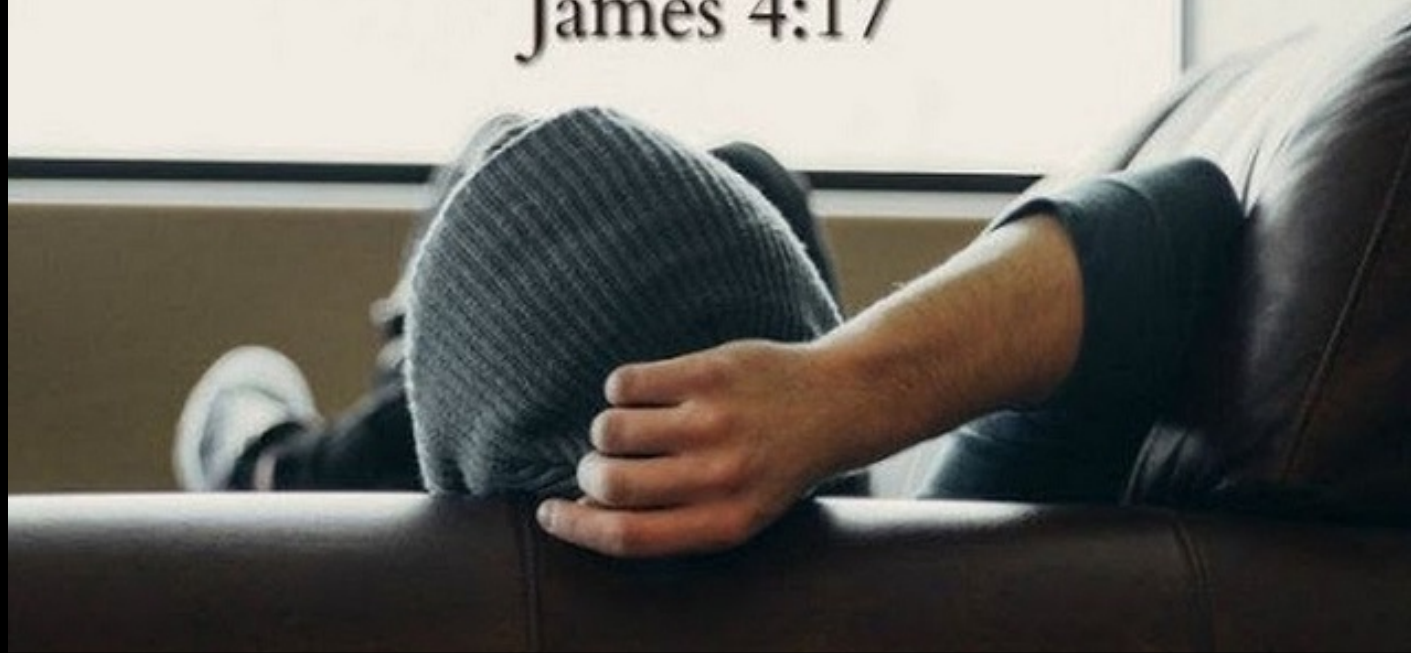
Harvest

IF WE DO NOT GIVE UP.

Galatians 6:9

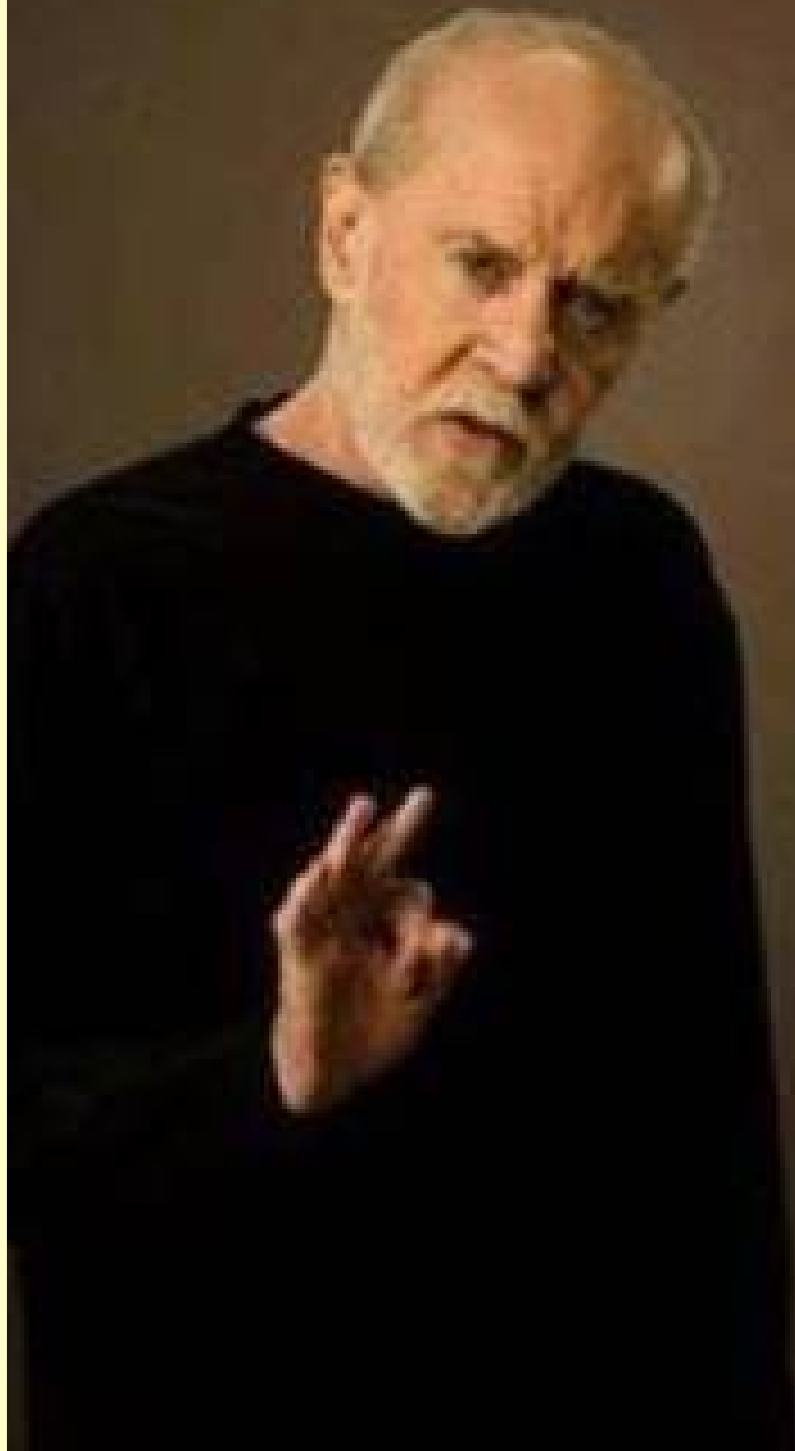
Remember,
it is sin to know
what you ought to do
and then not do it.

James 4:17



#2. Materialism





**TRYING TO BE
HAPPY BY
ACCUMULATING
POSSESSIONS IS
LIKE TRYING TO
SATISFY HUNGER
BY TAPING
SANDWICHES
ALL OVER
YOUR BODY.**





ONE THING YOU LACK...

Mark 10:17-31

***For It Is Easier For A
Camel To Go Through
The Eye Of A Needle***

LUKE 18:25

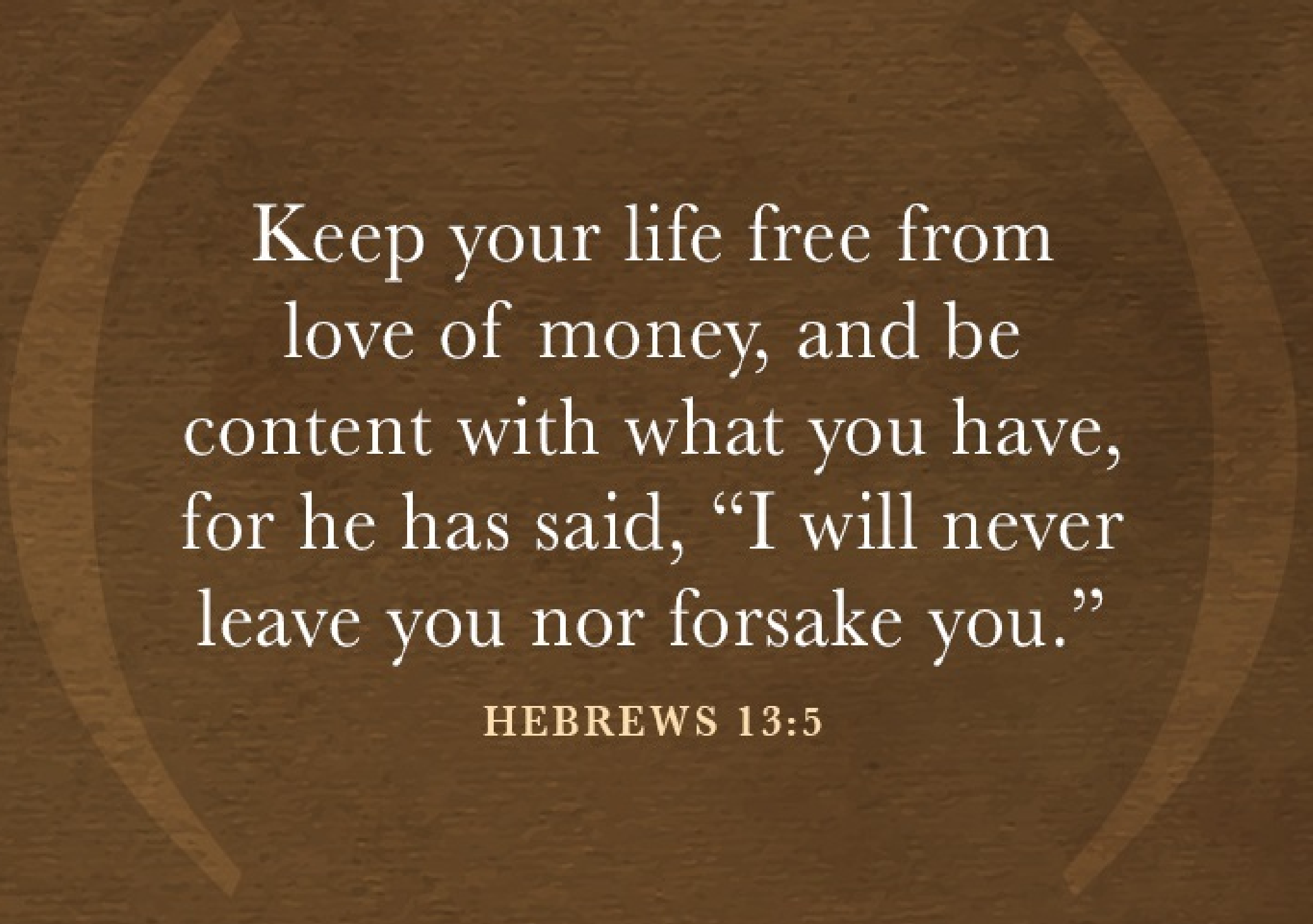
***Than For A Rich
Man To Enter The
Kingdom Of GOD***

**For the love of money is the root of all evil:
which while some coveted after,
they have erred from the faith,
and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.**

First Epistle of Apostle St Paul to Timothy 6.10



“But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.” (1 Timothy 6: 6-10)



Keep your life free from
love of money, and be
content with what you have,
for he has said, “I will never
leave you nor forsake you.”

HEBREWS 13:5

Jesus said, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

(Matthew 6: 19-21)

#3. Busyness

We all have a
limit to our
energy resources,
so we must be
sure not to waste
that valuable
asset on the
wrong pursuit.



Often our problem with being too busy is self-created.

We may be trying to do too much because we don't want to say no to anyone, for fear of disapproval.

But that can cause much of what we do to be done out of obligation.

We can not do it all. We may have to say no to people to be able to say yes to God's calling for our lives.

**"OUR GREATEST FEAR
SHOULD NOT BE OF
FAILURE, BUT OF
SUCCEEDING AT
SOMETHING THAT
DOESN'T REALLY
MATTER."**

— DWIGHT LYMAN MOODY

**Children are not a
distraction **from more
important work.****

**They are the most
important work.**

-John Trainer, MD

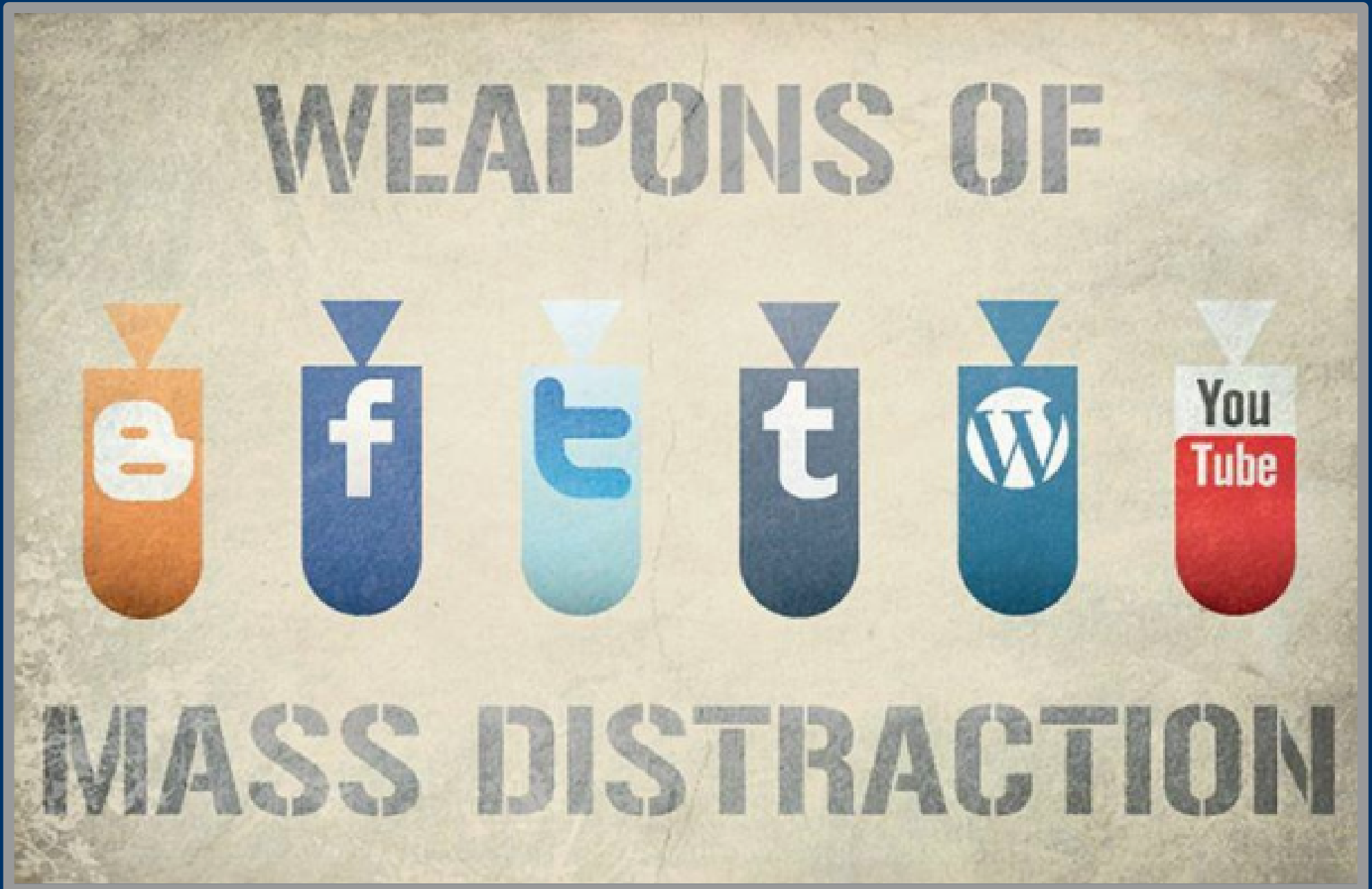
~ not C. S. Lewis

Your greatest
contribution
to the kingdom of
God may not be
something you do,
but someone you

raise.



#4. Digital Distractions



You know what happens when you go onto the Internet to Google something or just take a quick look at your Facebook page, right? You are sucked off into a black hole ... a time warp ... and suddenly you wonder how you just wasted the forty five minutes (or maybe twice that!) which you had planned to use for a nobler purpose.

PUT GOD'S PRIORITIES FIRST

It's not possible to know God's plans for you without first knowing Him. Give top priority to reading and studying His word daily. Get together with other believers for Bible study and fellowship. Set aside a time to pray, and not when you are so tired that you can't stay awake. Give Him your best, not your leftovers.

#5. FEAR

If God is calling you to something you think is too hard for you, you are wrong! He will equip you for whatever it is He wants you to accomplish. And, if it's something that frightens you, you certainly aren't the first person and you won't be the last to DO IT AFRAID!


#5. FEAR

You can be sure that there are many people serving the Lord daily who are shaking in their boots, but they are succeeding in their ministry, not by their courage but by their obedience.



Sometimes fear does not
subside and one must
choose to do it afraid.

-- Elisabeth Elliot



**LET US RUN
WITH
ENDURANCE
THE RACE
GOD HAS SET
BEFORE US**

Hebrews 12:1

SEE TO IT THAT YOU

COMPLETE

THE *Ministry* YOU
RECEIVED HAVE

in the

LORD

COLOSSIANS 4:17

