

DTS 2022: Session 14

The Cost of Growth...

Only 40%

- In a study of 1200 leaders...
- Only 40% finished well...
- While God desires that all of us run our race to the finish!
 - 6 in 10 have to be carried over the finish line!

And there are reasons for that!

We get stagnant!

5 “Finishing” Habits

- Lifelong learning!
 - “I do not count myself as having attained...”
 - We can never “arrive” we must keep on learning!

5 “Finishing” Habits

- **A commitment to serve and develop others!**
 - **“A teacher is twice taught!”**
 - **Helping others keeps the word before us and the fires burning!**

5 “Finishing” Habits

- **A dynamic view of life’s ministry!**
 - **“We must maintain a constant living pursuit of God and His will for us!”**
 - **Are we more in love with Him?**
 - **More committed to serve?**
 - **More devoted to His Kingdom?**

5 “Finishing” Habits

- Repeated times of renewal!
 - “If you neglect times to ‘pull away’ to be with Him... it will pull you down!”

5 “Finishing” Habits

- **A Life-Time Perspective**

- “I am not yet what I am going to be... but by His help I will be what He made me to be!”

- “I have a lifetime to get there!”

- “And only after a lifetime, can I judge!”

We don't know where we are!

6 Phases of Life...

- **Foundations!**
 - **Formation stages of life; family, background, ethnicity, personal history, church/non church...**
 - **The good, bad and the ugly!**
 - **All working together...**

6 Phases of Life...

- **Inner Life Development!**
 - “I must have more of God or I will die!”
 - The place where the Word and worship come alive!
 - Sensitivity to God’s things, heartbeat, desires.

6 Phases of Life...

- **Ministry Maturing!**
 - Finding your place and your purpose.
 - Experiments and experience.
 - Acquire skills/ability
 - Oddly, most leaders get stuck here!

6 Phases of Life...

- **Life Maturing!**
 - **Starting to get focused!**
 - **Scope of a rifle vs. shotgun**
 - **Prioritizing real issues!**
 - **Increased influence/credibility!**
 - **Decreased “leading”/more “promoting!”**
 - **Significance vs. success**

6 Phases of Life...

- **Convergence!**
 - Skills, giftedness, character
 - Combine to make a unique and ultimate contribution!
 - “Born for this moment!”

6 Phases of Life...

- **After Glow!**
 - Run the race and heading in!
 - No more mountain climbing
 - Few regrets
 - Final outpouring



**The constant tension between
our desires and dreams and His
purposes and plan!**

Elements...

- **Glenn Holland... was a man with musical talent and a dream to compose...**
 - Rich and famous, admired and adored!
 - And life hit hard, as it does to all!
 - “Never expected to be here”
- **Took up teaching; while regrouping!**
 - Budget said ‘four years... back on track...’
 - Meets Gertrude Lang...



Elements...

- **Gertrude has no real talent...**
 - Crushed by the world around her...
 - Crushed by Mr. Hollands frustration and hatred for wanting to be anywhere else!
- **After being confronted about his selfishness... and his wife's pregnancy...**
 - Has a personal epiphany and comes back to work with fresh perspective!



Elements...

- He found a new track, an inspired track of teaching and all was going so well...
 - Until found that his son, of all people, couldn't hear!
 - Had to learn sign language...
 - And then the war changed life again... as he lost a favorite student!
 - Mid-life crisis
 - Family crisis with his son...

Elements...

- All the things that come to keep us from what we were created for...
 - “Life is what happens to you while you’re making other plans!”
 - “But those who follow God will find that everything has a place in God’s plan for your ministry!”
 - Culture change. Forced retirement.



Final...

- If we could just forget about ourselves... and “do the works God has ordained for us from the foundation of the world...”
- If we could just look out far enough to see the coming day with God, who is faithful to remember our works and labors of love which we have done in His name, in ministering to others...

Final...

- If we could just focus on finding our resonance, fulfilling our Maker's design, and yield ourselves into His hands...
- If we could, the competitive moments with world distractions would have no hold on us!

