

Finishing Well

Forging Relationships to Encourage Men to Finish Well in Life

“MEN LUST,
BUT THEY
KNOW NOT
WHAT FOR;
THEY WANDER,
AND LOSE
TRACK OF THE
GOAL;
THEY FIGHT
AND COMPETE,
BUT THEY
FORGET THE
PRIZE;
THEY SPREAD
SEED, BUT
SPURN THE
SEASONS OF
GROWTH;
THEY CHASE
POWER AND
GLORY, BUT
MISS THE
MEANING OF
LIFE.”
-GEORGE
GILDER

REFLECTIONS ON *Faith*

Barry Morrow

TAKING STOCK...

Bob Buford is well known for his timely book, *Halftime*, in which he suggests that men often spend the first half of their lives seeking success, while the latter half of their lives, seeking significance...*what's it all about? What will be my legacy? How will I be remembered?* In his most recent book, *Finishing Well*, he shares a wealth of wisdom for business professionals based on interviews he conducted with over a hundred people who are making a difference in the lives of others and living out their lives with passion and enthusiasm. In the book, Buford shares some key insights he has learned from his long relationship with management expert Peter Drucker, who has written more than 35 books on management. Here are three of the key life principles mentioned:

Find your existential core: “There’s a strong correlation between high achievement and the ability to come to terms with life’s basic questions...I think the most successful people are those who have a strong faith. They’re people who all their lives have believed in faith, hope, and charity...”

Make your life your endgame: “The goal is not just long life or even a prosperous one; it’s to make a meaningful life out of an ordinary one. ...Life is often perplexing, and merely ‘chasing the dream’ may not be enough...The answer is to set your sights on achievements that really matter, that will make a difference.”

You have to define what finishing well means to you: “I don’t think I ever in my life considered making a lot of money as major success. My definition of success changed a long time ago...Making a difference in a few lives is a worthy goal. Having enabled a few people to do the things they want to do—that’s really what I want to be remembered for.”



I love to give charity, but I don't want to be charity...

GRACE...THE BEGGAR'S KINGDOM

“For a very long time, I could not understand why some people have no trouble accepting the grace of God while others experience immense difficulty. I counted myself as one of the ones who had trouble...Enlightenment came in an unexpected place: a grocery store. I was on my way over Mount Hood to spend some time in the high desert with a few friends. I was driving alone and decided to stop in at Safeway to pick up some provisions for the weekend. While standing in line at the checkout counter, the lady in front of me pulled out food stamps to pay for her groceries. I had never seen food stamps before. They were more colorful than I imagined and looked more like money than stamps. It was obvious as she unfolded the currency that she, I, and the checkout girl were quite uncomfortable...I wished there was something I could do. I wished I could pay for her groceries myself but to do so would have been to cause a greater scene... On the drive over the mountain that afternoon I realized that it was not the woman who should be pitied, it was me. Somehow I had come to believe that because a person is in need, they are candidates for sympathy, not just charity... I wonder what it would be like to use food stamps for a month. I wonder how that would feel, standing in line at the grocery store, pulling from my wallet the bright currency of poverty, feeling the probing eyes of the customers as they studied my clothes and the items in my cart: frozen pizza, name-brand milk, coffee. I would want to explain to them that I have a good job and make good money. I love to give charity, but I don’t want to be charity. This is why I have so much trouble with grace.” —from *Blue Like Jazz: Nonreligious Thoughts on Christian Spirituality*, by Donald Miller.

THOUGHTS ON LIFE, FAITH, & BUSINESS...

“Never put off until tomorrow what you can do the day after tomorrow.” –Mark Twain

“I don’t like principles. I prefer prejudices.” –Oscar Wilde

“A Sunday school is a prison in which children do penance for the evil conscience of their parents.” – H.L. Mencken

“Lust is the craving for salt of a man who is dying of thirst.” –Frederick Buechner

“I love mankind; it’s people I can’t stand.” –Charles Schulz

“Ignorant people are sure of the causes of everything.” –James Thorpe

“Work is not always required of man. There is such a thing as a sacred idleness, the cultivation of which is now fearfully neglected.” –George MacDonald

“All our knowledge brings us nearer to our ignorance, all our ignorance brings us nearer to death, but nearness to death no nearer to God. Where is the Life we have lost in living? Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge? Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?” –T. S. Eliot

“It is precisely when life treats us best that the deepest dissatisfaction arises. As long as we lack worldly happiness, we can deceive ourselves with the ‘if only’ syndrome: If I only had this or that, I would be happy. But once we have all our thises and thats and are still unhappy, the deception is exposed...it is the highest life that sets us longing for something more than this life.” –Peter Kreeft

SCRIPTURE FOR REFLECTION...

“O Lord, who may abide in Thy tent? Who may dwell on Thy holy hill? He who walks with integrity, and works righteousness, and speaks truth in his heart. He does not slander with his tongue, nor does evil to his neighbor, nor takes up a reproach against his friend; In whose eyes a reprobate is despised, but who honors those who fear the Lord; He swears to his own hurt, and does not change; He does not put out his money at interest, nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things will never be shaken.” –King David, Psalm 15

WHAT IS *FINISHINGWELL*?

FinishingWell is a unique and personalized service I offer men to assist them in balancing work, family, and faith. In a world of constant pressure and change, we often find ourselves under the “tyranny of the urgent.”

The benefits of *FinishingWell* include:

- A relationship based upon strict confidentiality in all matters.
- Realistic strategies to balance your personal and professional life.
- Encouragement to make course corrections in life that you want to make.

Contact me to see how *FinishingWell* might be of benefit to you. A two-page document describing the service is available upon request.

*To live in
the past
and future
is easy. To
live in the
present is
like
threading
a needle.
- Walker
Percy*