

The greek Word Teleo, and its derivatives “tetelesai, telestoi, and others, mean to finish, to bring to an end, to complete.

Hina understood with **teleiws** in like idiom, first aorist active subjunctive of **teleiow** (from **teleioß**), to bring to an end. See [Romans 5:36](#). In [Romans 17:4](#) (the Intercessory Prayer) he will say that he has done (**teleiwsaß**) this task which the Father gave him to do. On the Cross Jesus will cry **Tetelestai** (It is finished). He will carry through the Father's programme ([John 3:16](#)). That is his "food." He had been doing that in winning the woman to God.

[Lu 14:29](#) - [Show Context](#)

Otherwise, after he has laid the foundation and cannot **finish** it, all the onlookers will begin to make fun of him,

[Lu 14:30](#) - [Show Context](#)

saying, 'This man started to build and wasn't able to **finish**.'

[Joh 4:34](#) - [Show Context](#)

"My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to **finish** His work," Jesus told them.

[Ac 20:24](#) - [Show Context](#)

But I count my life of no value to myself, so that I may **finish** my course and the ministry I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of God's grace.

[2Co 8:11](#) - [Show Context](#)

But now **finish** the task as well, that just as there was eagerness to desire it, so there may also be a completion from what you have.

[Re 11:7](#) - [Show Context](#)

When they **finish** their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the abyss will make war with them, conquer them, and kill them.

1. to bring to a close, to finish, to end
 - a. passed, finished
2. to perform, execute, complete, fulfil, (so that the thing done corresponds to what has been said, the order, command etc.)
 - a. with special reference to the subject matter, to carry out the contents of a command
 - b. with reference also to the form, to do just as commanded, and generally involving the notion of time, to perform the last act which completes a process, to accomplish, fulfil
3. to pay
 - a. of tribute

"It is finished or paid" John 19:30

Failure – the path of least persistence.

FINISHING WELL

What are we finishing? Who are our opponents? Actually, our opponent isn't there to run against us, he is there to stop us from reaching the finish line. Why don't some people finish their life of faith?

Jesus gives us a lesson about building a life of faith:

[Lu 14:29](#) Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to **finish** it, all that behold it begin to mock him,

[Lu 14:30](#) Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to **finish**.

Genesis – story of Terah and Abraham (Gn. 11:27-32, 12:1-9)

Why don't people finish what they start? And why is the bible so full of stories of people who started well and did not finish, or struggled their lives yet finished well? What is God trying to tell us?

1. **Why don't we finish?** ~ know any habitual starters and non-finishers? Or ppl who are consumed with finishing what they start before they go onto another project?
 - a. **Prefer the Safety of the known**
 - i. Abraham and Terah
 - ii. Borderland
 - b. **They reverse roles with God (Their God is too safe)**
 1. Aslan – The Lion, the Witch and Wardrobe (C.S. Lewis)
 - a. “Is he a man?” asked Lucy? “Aslan, a man!” Mr. Beaver said sternly. I tell you he is the king of the wood and the son of the great emperor beyond the sea. Don't you know who is the king of beasts? Aslan is a lion – the lion, the great lion.
 - b. Oh, said Susan. “I thought he was a man. Is he –quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion.”
 - c. “That you will dearie, and no mistake.” Said Mrs. Beaver. “if there is anyone who can appear before Aslan without their knees knocking, they are either braver than most or just silly.”
 - d. “Then he isn't safe?” Said Lucy.
 - e. “Safe?” Said Mr. Beaver. “don't you ihear what Mrs. Beaver tells you? Who said anything about safe? Of course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the king, I tell you.”
 2. Is he the God who gives you the parking place
 3. Is he the God you have to appease to be sure your prayers are answered?
 4. Is he the indifferent God of the Moslems who stands afar off and watches and allows all things to just happen and expects us to just accept it as “Allah's will”?
 5. Is he the God we fit into our safe box and try to control?
 - a. If we don't get our way, do we walk away? (Example of Nabisco)

- b.
- 6. Peter (Luke 5:1-11)
 - a. God in my pocket
 - b. New boat, vacation, nest egg...hey Jesus, can we do this tomorrow? I could retire soon and then I could support your ministry...ah, how about being my partner Jesus, I will give you 10% of the profits....
 - c. Ohoh, either Jesus leaves or I leave this.
 - d. Jesus fills our nets with blessings and what do we say? “Don’t take away all of this, just leave me alone so I don’t have to leave this behind...but I will call when I need some for fish for my net”
- 7. **Role reversal takes God off his throne and puts us there.**
 - a. God is a consuming fire
 - b. He wishes to rule us
 - c. He is not a safe God but He is always good.
 - d. Avoid the safe gods...they are idols. A “safe God” is in the pay of your enemy, he breeds cowardice, he plunders your fields, he keeps you stuck, complacent, bored.
 - e. *Destroy the idols like Gideon (Judges 6:30) in order to KNOW THE TRUE God.*

ii. **We lack the faith to pursue the unknown.)**

- 1. seminary
- 2. have you changed jobs and moved on?
- 3. have you ever tried something new? It takes faith.

iii. **We become distracted by the cares of Life. (Parable of the Sower, Mt. 13:3)**

- 1. Young ppl - Video Games, Social Life, Peer Groups
- 2. Young families – Families needs, finances, television, career needs.
- 3. Older families – preoccupation with career and security, hobbies, travel
 - a. **Beware of the sins of old age** – we seek for comfort and convenience, recognition and security. The sins of old age can erase Christ's “well done”. Remember Solomon.
- 4. Whatever your stage of life, the distractions from finishing well will always be there.

2. **What About the Church?**

- a. What keeps a church from finishing well?
 - i. Playing Church (going thru the motions) instead of recognizing why they are there!
 - 1. The church was called to be about people...making fully matured disciples (and not just converts)
 - 2. As churches grow, they can get distracted by the many good things there are to do.
 - 3. God calls us to be about the mission He gives us.
 - ii. Trying to live out another church’s mission instead of their own.

1. (homey church vs. mega church)
2. What is Here's Hope's Mission? As that is clear, be sure that you are about pursuing it with all of your energy and not being distracted by the many other things that keep you from becoming what God has created this church to be.

b. The finish Line How to finish well:

- i. **Keep your eyes on the finish line:** Hebrews 12:1-2 “Therefore since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross.”
 1. Jesus gave us everything so we would follow Him.
 2. Watch your goal, where you are going (ie. Skiing)
 3. you can't hit a target if you aren't looking at it.
- ii. Paul said “I have finished the race”

2Ti 4:7 - I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

 1. why do runners finish a race that they obviously won't win
 2. why do they keep running hard, even though it is obvious they can't win?
 3. Pride? Hope?
 4. Actually, they compete with themselves, to be all they can be!
- iii. Remember: No failure is not permanent unless you give up. You are not a failure because you fail, but rather, because you give up and don't finish.
- iv. Failure – the path of least persistence.

Gal 6:9 “and let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary”

Scripture on Finishing:

1Co 9:24 - Do you not know that the runners in a stadium all **race**, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win.

Heb 12:1 - Therefore since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily ensnares us, and run with endurance the **race** that lies before us,

1. What about the Cleveland, Boston marathon?

- v. 7 churches in revelation had in common? All exhorted that to “persevere to the end will receive a crown..”

You will finish if you remember that....

It is finished (for us) Joh 19:30 - **When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" Then bowing His head, He yielded up His spirit**

- vi. Finished furniture
- vii. Are you trying to complete by effort what you started by faith (God finished it!)
- viii. One who does not finish, had no faith to start with.

1796 William Hiley Bathurst was born near Bristol, England. He entered the Anglican ministry in 1818. In 1852, he resigned his religious credentials over personal conflicts with doctrines in the Anglican *Book of Prayer*, particularly regarding baptismal and burial services. He wrote the hymn, "O for a Faith that Will Not Shrink" in 1831. It is apparent he lived his faith to the very end, costing himself public respect and position.

O, for a faith that will not shrink,
Though pressed by every foe,
That will not tremble on the brink
Of any earthly woe!

That will not murmur nor complain
Beneath the chastening rod,
But, in the hour of grief or pain,
Will lean upon its God.

A faith that shines more bright and clear
When tempests rage without;
That when in danger knows no fear,
In darkness feels no doubt.

That bears, unmoved, the world's dread frown
Nor heeds its scornful smile;
That seas of trouble cannot drown,
Nor Satan's arts beguile.

A faith that keeps the narrow way
Till life's last hour is fled,
And with a pure and heavenly ray
Lights up a dying bed.

Lord, give me such a faith as this,
And then, whate'er may come,
I'll taste, e'en here, the hallowed bliss
Of an eternal home.

c. Decision time:

- i. Have you been distracted while running the race of faith? What has held you back? Are you willing to lay it all aside?

1. “For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself so that you may not grow weary and lose heart.” (Heb 12:3)
 2. “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering for He who promised is faithful.” (Heb 10:23)
- ii. What about if you have tried to do it on your own? You are like the finisher of the furniture...Jesus has done it all for you, you can REST in what He has done. If you have never trusted Him totally for your future, for forgiveness...you can today.
 - iii. Only Trust Him