

Letter #5: A Final Charge

I know how to be humbled, and I know also how to abound. In everything and in all things I have learned the secret both to be filled and to be hungry, both to abound and to be in need. ***I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me.*** (Phillip. 4:12-13)

Dear Graham,

The purpose of this letter today is to let you know how very proud I am of you and how much I have enjoyed our time together. You have learned much about God's plan for your life and the challenges that lay before you. At your age I know that some of this stuff may be difficult to fully understand, but I want you to know that I am here for you, and stand by you as you begin your journey into manhood. You can count on me to give you advice when you need it, to respect you and your decisions that you make along the way as God reveals His plan for your life. I want you to know that I will pray for you often, that God will protect you and give you discernment as to what his good plan is for your life.

You should know that the path you are about to choose is not going to be easy...***but it's worth it.*** Being a true Christ-follower is not easy in this world that we live in, but it's not supposed to be. Jesus Himself walked on this Earth and knew the difficulty He would face, even to the point of death.

"For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:2.

What got Him through all the adversity that he faced was the vision of what was to come. He knew that the pain and suffering He would face would be worth it in the end since Satan was a defeated foe. You too will face adversity in life. But when you set before you the vision of God's plan for your life, set you face like flint and do what it takes to realize His plan in your life. You will never regret it!

I want to end this by saying how proud I am of you and how much I admire you. You have taught me much about this very subject in seeing how hard you train in running every day. I know as you use those same strategies that give you temporary glory, and apply them to your spiritual life, you will be unstoppable in what God has for you.

"Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come." 1 Timothy 4:8

With Much Love and Respect,

Dad