

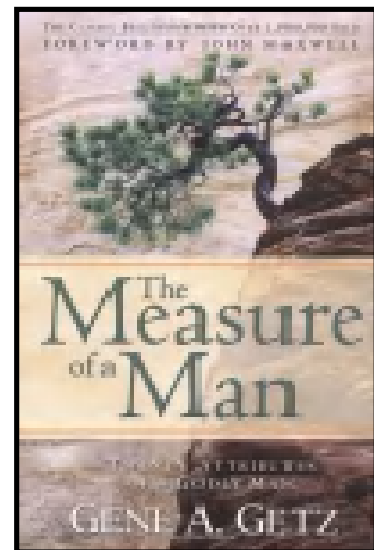
The Measure of a Man, “Becoming a Faithful Man” By Gene Getz

Continuing in the second book of Timothy, Paul is encouraging and instructive when he says in chapter 2:

I’m not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. Friends, don’t get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I’ve got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. **I’m off and running and I’m not turning back.**

In a modest, humble manner, Paul explains that he has he himself has yet to finish the journey; but at the same time, indicates that he is *in the race*...and is not looking back.

Timothy had a childhood of instruction in the scriptures; and on this *firm foundation*, was *conditioned* to be *off and running* is his young, adult years. While such earlier instruction is helpful, it is not necessary; but one may enter the race at any time...but should run so as to finish the race...and take prize. **What I mean is that, on choosing Christ, do not turn back to the notion that the culture or world can offer you hope, salvation.**



Turning to another book, Romans, chapter 2 offers the following advice on the race:

So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life— sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. **Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking.** Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out.

Well, this race is about commitment, but the race is also about surrender – that is, the offering of our lives to Christ as runners for the prize. This surrender is also an ongoing process...as we die to our old self...and become like Christ. Gene tells us: It still takes time to become a man of God...conforming our lives to the image of Christ is an ongoing lifetime process until we meet Jesus face to face. “

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In this journey are measures to be aware of; but remember, this list of measures is to indicate what has been accomplished....and what is to come.

- Good Reputation – to live as we learn...and speak of Christ
- Purity – to live our lives free from sexual slavery to porn and personal involvement outside of marriage
- Steady Temper – quick to listen, wise to talk, and slow to anger...always abounding in love
- Wise, Humble – use the mind (think) and heart (feel) in cooperation, but understand that Christian wisdom is endowed by God
- Respect – offer respect (as instructed) with the realization that it may not be reciprocated...
- Generous – give of yourself (time, energy, attention) in love
- Communicate – be able to present and model this way of life
- Addiction – yes, there is so much out there to enslave you....Be Careful
- Surrender – “Lord, your will in my life...not mine...”
- Peace – try to be at peace with everyone...as much as possible; not divisive, destructive or detrimental to friendship, relationships, etc.
- Caring – gentle, genuine, and sensitive (toward others)
- Vested – placing your interest and worth in Christ...not in the world and its relevance, its material possessions, etc.
- Love – already mentioned, but a primary measure of the journey
- Just – fairness, honesty and integrity – all necessary for justice
- Holy – being like Christ, as Christ is Holy...the image of God

As I briefly experienced in the actual sport of running, the training or program (journey) is certain to have setbacks and interruptions. Specific to the sport, injuries and other circumstances may send the runner to the bench, to the ground (reeling from an injury), or even to the bed (for rest and re-cooperation). Don't become discouraged; for as God knows you, He knows what you are experiencing...and must endure as you proceed in the race, the journey.

God honors a man, who honors Him.