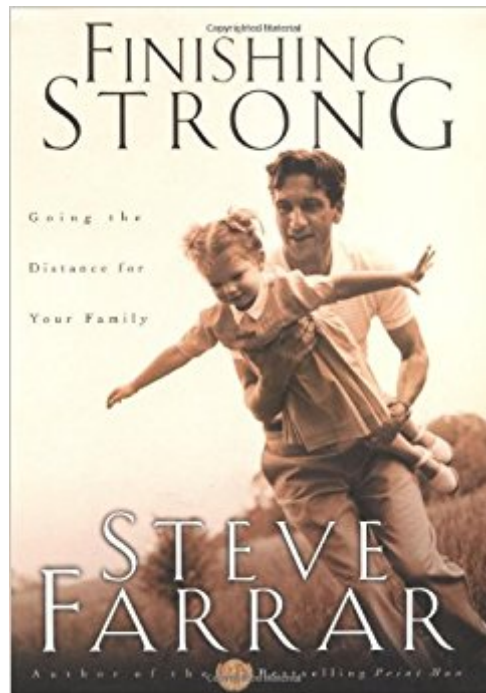




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Finishing Strong: Going The Distance For Your Family



Synopsis

Bestselling author Steve Farrar has good news for the average man: it doesn't matter if you've had a great start in the Christian life, or a rough one. It doesn't matter if you've stumbled time and again, or even fallen flat on your face. What matters most in this all-important race of life is how you finish. According to Farrar, the man who hangs in there for the long haul with his wife, his kids, and his Lord is an exception these days. *Finishing Strong*, now in trade paperback, offers lively use of Scripture, contemporary illustrations, and study questions to equip every reader to be that exception. For the man who wants to climb the character ladder more than the corporate one, this is an essential tool.

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Customer Reviews

Steve Farrar is the founder and chairman of Men's Leadership Ministries in Bryan/College Station, Texas, and brings his message to thousands of men each year. He holds a master's degree from Western Seminary and an earned doctorate from Dallas Theological Seminary.

Farrar loves to tell stories and he's got tons of them. Each chapter starts with a story that grabs your imagination. His practical advice to help you finish strong is almost always right on. This is a quick read, there's not too much dense reasoning or complicated concepts. Very accessible. My problem is that Farrar takes excellent practical advice and tries to wrap a Bible story around it. Sometimes this works very well, like with Uzziah from 2 Chronicles, sometimes it feels very forced, like with

Diotrephes from 2 John, and sometimes it is clearly wrong as when he said that David didn't finish well. I feel that if Farrar could just make his points and not always feel like he needed to cloak them in scripture the book would have been much better. My point is that the Old Testament is about Jesus (Luke 24:27, John 5:39, 1 Cor. 10, etc.) and yet Farrar treats it as if it is about how we should behave. At the end of each chapter I found myself asking where Jesus was in any of this. Often, it felt like he was on the sidelines watching rather than before the throne of God interceding. Theological quibbles and all, it is not a bad book and an encouragement to press on toward the finish.

It's the question I always ask when reading a Christian book. What can I get from this that I wouldn't see from reading the Bible on my own? What can I get from this that I wouldn't hear from a pastor's sermon in church? Why does there need to be yet another book in the huge ocean of Christian literature? Is this book necessary, and if not, is it at least worthwhile? (Of course the same could be said about me posting this review among the many others.) Well, what I got out of "Finishing Strong" was primarily reinforcement. As a Christian, you know that there are tons of obstacles in store for you as you walk your path with God, and you know it's a long road. But what Mr. Farrar does is give you a better idea of what possible obstacles there are, and exactly how long the road is. It's likened to a 126 mile long road with multiple ambushes waiting in the form of money, women, and pride. He wisely tells you where he sees the finish line to be, even though he leaves it somewhat open to interpretation. And he's very clear to point out that only one in ten men is going to live up to the potential God has given him to reach this finish line in a powerful way. This is the most important point in the book, and if the elaboration on this point isn't a reason to read the book, then there's no reason to read it at all. Many purposeful stories are in the book, and there should be at least one you don't already know. Some are stories about pastors, and others are about people outside of the church, so there's a lot of variety. Really, the only noticeable flaw I could point out is that while the meat of this book has quite a few things that only those familiar with the Bible could understand (it's obviously written for Christian men), Farrar tells the story of Joseph in a paraphrased way like we never heard it before, and spends at least a page or two doing it. Not necessary. Okay, so a few pages weren't necessary, but going back to an earlier question, is the book itself necessary or at least worthwhile? Is it necessary to read "Finishing Strong" if you want to finish strong for Jesus? I would say it isn't, but at least having a copy close by will give your brain some reinforcement of where you should be in your race towards the goal.

I found this book to be of better caliber than Point Man. Couple of things, the author has gained more wisdom in the past twelve years or so and is not nearly as dogmatic. When we are immature we often think we have ALL the answers. He speaks more about God's grace. This is so necessary to keep fallen man(all of us!) from being trapped by the enemy. Farrar still uses anecdotes to prove some weak points, retells well known bible stories in detail(can you say filler) and still makes broad statements that are questionable, i.e., "when I read between the lines..." Or some of his biblical hunches which don't appear in any reputable commentary. Comes across a little like I'm cranking out another book for my publisher and to make\$. Sometimes I think Steve should just say No and focus more on quality than quantity. He really does have some good stuff. The study questions are the best part of the book, but I don't think he wrote them.

I wasn't sure if this book would be entertaining or another book that made me feel guilty for all of the things I wasn't doing. That was not the case, however! This book is written for humans - specifically human men, but my wife also read it and loved it. The idea of finishing strong had never occurred to me, but it became apparent as I read the book how important it really is. If you're not moving forward, you're moving backwards, and this book illustrates that and gives examples of significant people in history and how they have maintained forward momentum and people we have never heard of who really were off to such a great start at such a fast pace that they should be some of the most well-known figures in history, but they got derailed and did not finish strong. This is great for every person, every man especially, to get ahold of and understand how to simply move forward. I appreciate so much that this book was well written so it does not make anyone feel bad, yet wants you to become better! Thank you Steve Farrar for a great book!

Great book. Recommended by a friend in recovery. A real boost to my faith.

Every male from age 13 should read this at least once in their life.

Awesome book.

Great

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