

OAK CLIFF
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP



FOR WOMEN AT
THE CLIFF

2019
ALL ABOUT WOMEN



FINISH WELL



By Dr. Shailendra Thomas

A few years ago, a dear friend sent me a note of encouragement. She closed the note by stating “Finish Well”. Days after reading her note, her closing still stuck with me. During my devotional times, I found myself reflecting on the following questions:

- Am I finishing well?
- Am I living with intentionality?
- Am I fulfilling God’s purpose for my life?

Because I was quickly approaching a milestone birthday, these questions became more real to me every day. The following is a glimpse into what God revealed to me through His Word as I contemplated these questions.

Psalm 90:12 states, “So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” How do we number our days? According to Psalm 90:10, the length of our earthly days is seventy years (eighty if we are strong). We “number our days” by contrasting the brevity of

mans' life on earth to an eternal God. Our days on earth are numbered by God and we don't know how many days are allotted to us. Understanding this truth makes us wise. We exercise wisdom when we realize that every day should be lived with that truth in mind.

This truth may be gloomy to some, but embracing this truth has brought great peace and joy to my life. I have been able to re-focus and live each day with intentionality, along with the crystal-clear purpose found in Acts 20:24 - “. . . My only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.” Understanding the brevity of life inspires me to love my family and friends at a deeper level, to quickly forgive those who I perceive have wronged me, to earnestly pray for those who need a miracle in their lives, and to courageously share the good news of Jesus Christ whenever and wherever I can.

Embracing this truth has also re-ignited a passion in me to serve others. Jesus was the ultimate model of a servant-leader. Throughout the New Testament, Jesus can be found ministering to those who had been marginalized by society due to culture, gender, economics, or health. Recently, I left a great position as the Head of School in a comfortable suburban neighborhood to open a Christian school in an underserved area of town. I wake up each morning so excited about bringing a Kingdom Education to the children of this sweet community. The children and parents that I serve daily make my life full, real, and meaningful.

As Christians, we have eternal life with Christ, but in comparison, our mortal life on earth is short and uncertain. Recognize this truth, stay prepared spiritually and intellectually, and remain ever-ready to seize opportunities that God sends your way. I hope and pray that this peek inside my personal spiritual journey will inspire you to “live your best life for Christ” every day. Because God created each of us with unique gifts and resources, everyone's “best life for Christ” looks amazingly different and wonderful! Pray and ask God to reveal your Kingdom focus as you seek to glorify Him with your life on earth.

Blessings on your journey and Finish Well!

Dr. Shailendra Thomas has served in Christian ministry for over 35 years, as women's and children's ministry leader, Head of School, seminar speaker, and national accreditation commissioner. She enjoys encouraging and challenging women by sharing Biblical truths. Dr. Thomas recently co-authored several books that uplift and inspire women, children and educators. She currently serves as Head of School at The King's Academy, but her primary

ministry is to her husband of 38 years, Richard, her three adult daughters, Lorren, Hillary, and Chelsea, and one grandson, Landon Blake.

THIS MONTH'S VERSE FOR MEMORY/MEDITATION:

*"I have seen his ways, and will heal him: I will lead him also, and restore comforts unto him and to his mourners."
— Isaiah 57:18*

APRIL PRAYER FOCUS

Let us pray for those who are dealing with chronic illness. Pray they find direction on a healing path through all ways and means available. Pray that they would know His peace despite the challenge and that He would lead them on a path of healing through faith.