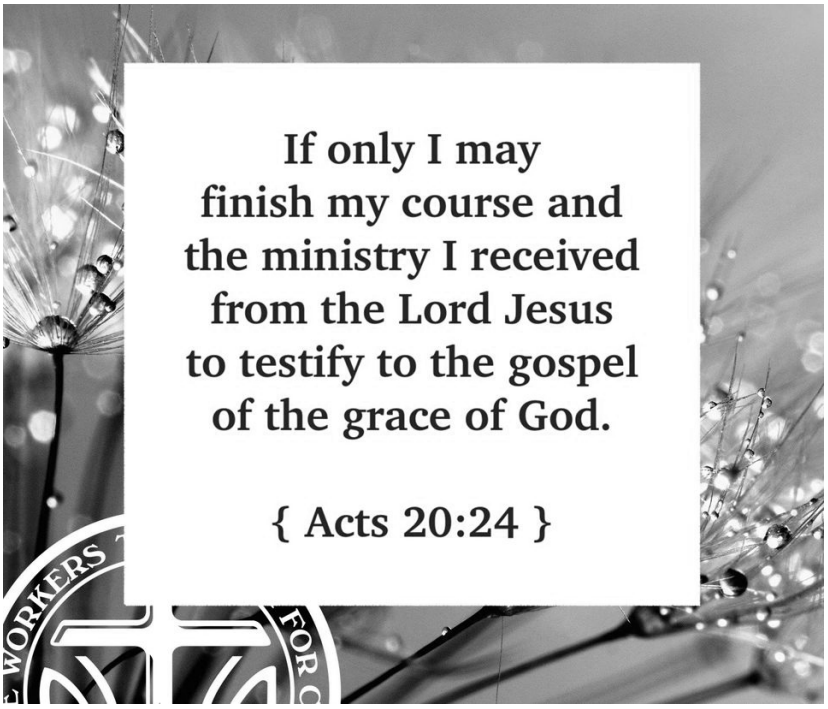
Finish the Ministry



Is it over? Am I done now? Do I feel relief?

For many of us, as we leave a position and transition out of leadership, the feeling is anti-climactic. We're going 100mph in ministry, and then... we're not.

The "natural" response for me is to pull back, slump into an introverted stupor, and perhaps hyper-analyze my entire life over ice cream. This time I'm doing it while surrounded by mountains of moving boxes dotted with little pink stickers.

In times like these, I am encouraged to remain spiritually vigilant by the apostle Paul: "... if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God." (Acts 20:24)

Are there things left unfinished?
Is my job truly done?
Or did my position just shift from leader to a follower that is still an example to others?

Let us not neglect those important final ministry moments that will FINISH THE MINISTRY we received and testify to God's grace.

I've compiled a list of Final Do-Outs for leaders in transition. (See comments!)

What would you add to it? How do you FINISH THE MINISTRY? (Now you comment!)

Final Do Outs

for leaders in transition

Administration

☐ continuity binder: Complete/include final AARs, reports and relevant files/documents.

☐ resources: Return all materials borrowed for your leadership season.

☐ hours: Submit/record your volunteer hours.

Conversation

☐ with God: What will it look like for me to finish the ministry I've been given?

☐ with my leaders: Did we meet the vision? What worked? What would we do differently?

☐ with my team: Thank. Acknowledge growth. Encourage.

☐ with my successor: Encourage. Acknowledge God. Offer your availability.

☐ with myself: How do I fall back to being a follower?

Participation

☐ intentionally: Follow the new leader.

☐ visibly: Show up at the first event of the new team. Be truly present.

☐ authentically: Be yourself. Re-integrate into the community. Enjoy the new perspective.

☐ absently: If you're leaving, use your credibility to encourage others to participate.