

The Dangers of Striving

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Broadcast Dates: 8/14/26 & 8/17/26-8/18/26

Message Date: 11/30/25 ● 10:00 A.M.

Scriptures:

- John 15:4, 5
- John 19:30
- Hebrews 10:12-14
- Hebrews 4:9-11
- Ephesians 1:3
- Romans 5:17
- Romans 5:17, *Mirror*
- Philippians 3:9
- Philippians 3:9, *Mirror*
- Galatians 5:4
- Galatians 5:4, *Mirror*
- Romans 10:3
- Romans 10:3, *Mirror*
- 2 Corinthians 3:18
- 1 John 4:18
- Hebrews 13:5
- Galatians 3:3
- Galatians 3:3, *Mirror*
- Ephesians 2:8, 9
- Ephesians 2:8, 9, *Mirror*
- Colossians 2:10
- Colossians 2:10, *Mirror*

Summary:

True Christian living is all about resting in the finished works of Jesus Christ. When Jesus declared, "It is finished," He meant that redemption, righteousness, and blessings are complete and can't be earned. It's critical that we understand this. Our success flows from union with Him, not from our own efforts, because the branch can't bear fruit apart from the vine. When we strive, we fall into frustration, burnout, and condemnation, but when we rest, we align our minds with what Christ has already accomplished. The call is to labor to stay in alignment through prayer, Scripture, and fellowship. Righteousness, healing, and prosperity are gifts, not goals, and striving to earn them short-circuits grace and numbs intimacy with God. We can stop trying to perform for acceptance and instead trust that we're already fully loved, forgiven, and complete in Him.

Notes:

1. There's a difference between resting and striving. Jesus' finished works put it into perspective.
2. Rest means alignment, not inactivity. By comparison, striving is trying to complete what Jesus *already* completed.
3. Redemption, righteousness, and blessings are complete, and nothing can be added to Jesus' work.
4. The focus is on gifts, not goals. Striving is spiritually dangerous to us but is still taught.
5. When we treat gifts as goals, striving begins. Grace isn't something we qualify for; it's freely given.

Category: spiritual growth

Keywords: resting, finished works, redemption, righteousness, blessings, complete, loved, forgiven