

How Long Will You Last 2 Timothy 4:5-7

I. Seven Signs You Lasted

5 But you, **keep your head** in all situations, **endure hardship**, **do the work** of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. 6 For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. 7 **I have fought** the good fight, **I have finished the race**, **I have kept the faith**. 8 **Now there is in store for me the crown** of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. (NIV)

1. When you have kept your **head** or stayed mentally focused
2. When you have endured **hardship**
3. When you have done the hard **work**
4. When you have fought the **fight**
5. When you have finished the **race** or your specific assignment
6. When you have kept the **faith**
7. When you have seen your **reward** (**your reward will be the proof of the quality of your work**)

II. Three Reasons Paul Lasted

A. He Stepped Over Immature People (2 Corinthians 11:20-33, The Message Bible)

- 20 You have such admirable tolerance for **impostors** who rob your freedom, rip you off, steal you blind, put you down—even slap your face! 21 I shouldn't admit it to you, but our stomachs aren't strong enough to tolerate that kind of stuff. Since you admire the **egomaniacs** of the pulpit so much (remember, this is your old friend, the fool, talking), let me try my hand at it. 22 Do **they brag** of being Hebrews, Israelites, the pure race of Abraham? **I'm their match**.

B. He Believed Through His Stormy Seasons (Paul listed 21 Storms)

- 22 Are they servants of Christ? **I can go them one better**. (I can't believe I'm saying these things. It's crazy to talk this way! But I started, and I'm going to finish.) 23 **I've worked much harder**, been **jailed** more often, **beaten up more times than I can count**, and **at death's door time after time**. 24 I've been **flogged** five times with the Jews' thirty-nine lashes, 25 **beaten by Roman rods three times**, pummeled with **rocks** once. I've been **shipwrecked** three times, and **immersed** in the open sea for a night and a day.

1. He worked harder
2. He was jailed
3. He was flogged five times 39 lashes each (Total 195 lashes)
4. He was beaten with rods 3 times (v.25)
5. He was stoned (v.25)
6. He was shipwrecked 3 times
7. He was immersed in the sea and almost drowned

- 26 In **hard traveling year** in and year out, I've had to **ford rivers**, fend off **robbers**, struggle with **friends**, struggle with **foes**. I've been at **risk in the city**, at **risk in the country**, endangered by **desert sun** and **sea storm**, and **betrayed** by those I thought were my brothers.

1. He traveled hard
2. He braved rivers
3. He fended off robbers
4. He struggled with friends
5. He faced risk in the city and the country

6. He was engaged by the desert sun and storm
7. He was betrayed by “those I thought were my brothers”

2 Corinthians 11: 27 I’ve known **drudgery (weariness, NKJV)** and **hard labor**, many a long and **lonely night without sleep**, many a **missed meal**, blasted by the **cold**, naked to the weather. 28 And **that’s not the half of it**, when you throw in the **daily pressures** and **anxieties** of all the churches.

1. He managed drudgery, (menial, dull, irksome, fatiguing)
2. He managed hard labor
3. He managed sleepless nights
4. He missed meals
5. He managed cold weather
6. He had daily leadership pressures
7. He managed anxieties in all the churches

C. He Let People Help Him

Question: What is out of control in your life that you can’t manage alone?

- 32 Remember the time I was in Damascus and the governor of King Aretas **posted guards at the city gates to arrest me**? 33 **I crawled through a window in the wall, was let down in a basket, and had to run for my life. (cp. Acts 9:23-25)**

III. Two Things That Can Help You Last

1. Break your life down into pieces
2. Prioritize the pieces of your life