To prevent spiritual degradation in our lives.

- 1) Personal reflection Past/ present...To many godly people who don't finish well. 1 Cor. 10:12 -1 3
- 2) Two favorite verse:
 - a) 1 Peter 4: 1-4 Peter's take on Jesus' call to "Take up you Cross"
 - b) 2 Peter 1: 3 -10 Peter's instructions to new converts.

(Both Passages promise spiritual victory and longevity)

- 3) Foundational Principles at work:
 - a) God has always invited believers into the secret place to get alone with God and seek His face. (Matt. 6: 6)
 - b) On the other hand God doesn't instruct us to avoid the chaotic world and cloister in a cabin on the mountains. (John 17:14-18)
 - c) With these two principles combined, we are to "flesh" out a positive Christian life in the midst of turmoil and setbacks.

God invites us into a life journey where we live in the <u>pressure</u>

<u>cooker of life</u> and make it successful and meaningful until the end.

- 4) Examples of people who started well and got "out of alignment"
 - a) King Saul 1 Sam. chapters 9 11 / 1 Sam. 15: 10 15/1 Chron. 10:13-13
 - b) King Asa 2 Chron. 15/ 2 Chron. 16: 7 14
 - c) Judas Iscariot John 13: 18 26 Verse 26 Satan entered Judas.
 - d) Alexander the Coppersmith 2 Tim. 4:14 spoke ill of Paul
- 5) Five steps to losing your "calibration" with the Holy Spirit.
 - a) Voice of God become less and less impactful. Isa. 30:21
 - b) Substitute voices take over, offer more influence -
 - c) Acquired convictions subside Love grows cold Rev. 2:4/ Matt. 24:12
 - d) Hardness of spiritual heart sets in 1 Tim. 4: 1-2
 - e) Lose any desire for spiritual things. Rom. 1:21-22
- 6) What's the hope?? God is using the power of heaven to try and draw each of us back to "re-alignment/ calibration." Jesus is praying for us. Rom.8:24

 Hebrews 12: 1- 3/ 7-11 Tough things in life are meant to train us and draw us back to God.
- 7) Application: Keys to a successful re-calibration!!
 - a) Teachable Spirit ---
 - b) Humility ----
 - c) Time every day to stop and connect with God!!
 - d) Re-developing an keenness to Holy Spirit's voice again
 - e) Bind Satan every day from your "Spiritual GPS"