

Run to Win!

1 Corinthians 9:23-27 (NLT) I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings. Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified.

I. What prize are we trying to win?

1 Corinthians 9:25 (NLT) All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize.

Are you running for the prizes of this life or for the Eternal Prizes?

Matthew 6:19-20 (NLT) "Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal.

2 Timothy 2:3-4 (NLT) Endure suffering along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. Soldiers don't get tied up in the affairs of civilian life, for then they cannot please the officer who enlisted them.

****Luke 12:20 (NLT)** "But God said to him, 'You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?'

II. Run with purpose

1 Corinthians 9:26-27 (NLT) So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should.

James 2:14 (NLT) What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone?

James 2:17 (NLT) So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.

He explains the "Good Deeds."

James 2:15-16 (NLT) Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?

Some say that just because I don't.... doesn't mean I don't have faith.

James 2:18 (NLT) Now someone may argue, "Some people have faith; others have good deeds." But I say, "How can you show me your faith if you don't have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds."

Action is the proper fruit of living faith.

Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT) Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

The Greatest in Heaven is a servant!

Matthew 20:26-28 (NLT) But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."

III. We must serve one another.

1 Peter 4:10 (NLT) God has given each of you a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.

Hebrews 10:25 (NLT) And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

Romans 12:4-5 (NLT) Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

Romans 12:9-10 (NLT) Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.

Honoring: g5092. τιμή timē; from 5099; a value, i.e. money paid, or (concretely and collectively) valuables; by analogy, esteem (especially of the highest degree), or the dignity itself: — honor, precious, price, some.

IV. The Eternal Prize

1 Corinthians 9:24 (AMP) Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but [only] one receives the prize? So run [your race] that you may lay hold [of the prize] and make it yours.

1 Corinthians 9:23 (NLT) I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings.

1 Corinthians 9:25 (NLT) ...They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize.

****Matthew 16:27 (NASB 2020)** For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and WILL THEN REPAY EVERY PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS.

****Matthew 25:21 (ESV)** His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'

Matthew 6:19-21 (ESV) "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Faith and Works

James 2:18 (NASB 2020) But someone may well say, "You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works."

James 2:22 (NASB 2020) You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected;

James 2:24 (NASB 2020) You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.