



Let's Go Higher **DEVOTIONALS**

SERMON: "RUNNING WITH THE VISION"

PASTOR TYRONE KING

Day 1: The Foundation of Lasting Vision

Devotional: Have you ever started something with incredible enthusiasm, only to watch that excitement fade over time? Maybe it was a fitness goal, a new hobby, or even a spiritual commitment. We've all been there. The initial spark burns bright, but without the right foundation, it eventually dies out. When God gives us a vision - whether it's for ministry, family, career, or personal growth - our natural response is excitement. We feel energized and ready to conquer the world. But here's the truth that many miss: excitement alone won't sustain you through the long journey ahead. Think about Olympic athletes. They don't rely on the thrill of competition day to carry them through years of preparation. Instead, they build their success on daily discipline, consistent training, and unwavering commitment to their goal. The same principle applies to our spiritual lives and the visions God has given us. Your God-given vision is precious, but it requires more than passion to survive. It needs the steady foundation of spiritual discipline. When the initial excitement wears off - and it will - discipline becomes the bridge that carries you forward. It's what separates those who see their dreams fulfilled from those who watch them fade away. The beautiful thing about discipline is that it's not about perfection; it's about consistency. Small, daily choices to seek God, study His Word, and align your life with His purposes create the spiritual strength needed to sustain your vision through every season.

Bible Verse: 'Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.' - 1 Corinthians 9:24-27



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Reflection Question: What vision has God placed in your heart, and what daily disciplines do you need to establish to ensure that vision doesn't fade when your initial excitement wanes?

Quote: Vision is sustained not by, not by your excitement or my excitement, but by our discipline saints. By discipline saints, your vision fades when discipline weakens.

Prayer: Lord, thank You for the vision You've placed in my heart. Help me understand that excitement alone won't sustain me through this journey. Give me the wisdom to establish daily disciplines that will strengthen my relationship with You and keep my vision alive. When my enthusiasm fades, let my discipline carry me forward. In Jesus' name, Amen.



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Day 2: Training for the Vision

Devotional: Every great athlete knows that natural talent alone isn't enough. Raw ability might get you noticed, but it's intentional training that transforms potential into performance. The same truth applies to the spiritual life and the visions God has given us. When we look at successful people in any field, we often see their achievements but miss the countless hours of preparation that made those moments possible. The concert pianist didn't just sit down and play beautifully; they practiced scales for years. The surgeon didn't just walk into the operating room; they studied, trained, and honed their skills through repetition. Your spiritual vision requires the same intentional approach. Just as athletes follow strict training regimens, believers must engage in consistent spiritual practices that build strength, endurance, and skill. This isn't about earning God's love or trying to impress Him - it's about conditioning yourself to handle the weight of the calling He's placed on your life. Consistent prayer develops your communication with God. Regular Bible study builds your understanding of His character and ways. Fasting teaches you to depend on Him rather than your own strength. Accountability keeps you aligned with His standards. These aren't burdensome religious activities; they're training exercises that prepare you for the journey ahead. The vision God has given you is bigger than your current capacity. That's intentional. He wants to grow you through the process of pursuing it. But growth requires training, and training requires sacrifice. The question isn't whether you're capable right now - it's whether you're willing to be trained.

Bible Verse: *'Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.'* - Hebrews 12:1



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Reflection Question: What specific spiritual training practices do you need to implement or strengthen to prepare yourself for the vision God has given you?

Quote: *Vision requires some intentional training. Everyone who competes in the Games goes into strict training. They can. They train consistently but they also sacrifice as a part of that consistent training.*

Prayer: Father, I recognize that the vision You've given me requires more than I currently possess. Help me embrace the training process with joy, knowing that You're preparing me for something greater. Give me consistency in prayer, hunger for Your Word, and the discipline to grow in the areas where I'm weak. Shape me into who You need me to be. Amen.



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Day 3: Guarding Your Vision Through Self-Control

Devotional: Imagine a security guard protecting a valuable treasure. They don't just stand there casually; they're alert, watchful, and ready to defend against any threat. Your God-given vision is a treasure that needs the same kind of protection, and self-control is the guard that keeps it safe. Life has a way of throwing curveballs that can knock us off course. Anger over unfair treatment, frustration when things don't go as planned, disappointment when people let us down - these emotions are natural, but they can become dangerous if left unchecked. They have the power to derail the very vision God has entrusted to you. Self-control isn't about suppressing emotions or pretending everything is fine. It's about managing your responses in a way that protects what matters most. When someone criticizes your vision, self-control helps you respond with wisdom rather than defensiveness. When progress seems slow, self-control keeps you from making impulsive decisions that could set you back. Think about the boundaries you need in your life. What habits, influences, or relationships are threatening your vision? Self-control gives you the strength to say no to things that feel good in the moment but damage your long-term purpose. It helps you choose the narrow path when the wide road looks more appealing. The beautiful thing about developing self-control is that it becomes easier with practice. Each time you choose discipline over impulse, you're building spiritual muscle. Each time you protect your vision from potential threats, you're proving to yourself and to God that you can be trusted with greater things.

Bible Verse: *'Like a city whose walls are broken through is a person who lacks self-control.'* - Proverbs 25:28



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Reflection Question: What areas of your life currently lack the self-control needed to protect your God-given vision, and what boundaries do you need to establish?

Prayer: Lord, I need Your help to develop the self-control that will guard my vision. Show me the areas where I'm vulnerable to distraction or derailment. Give me the strength to set healthy boundaries and the wisdom to recognize threats before they damage what You've entrusted to me. Help me respond to challenges with grace and wisdom. In Jesus' name, Amen.



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Day 4: Running with Purpose, Not Aimlessly

Devotional: Have you ever watched someone at the gym who seems to be working hard but without any clear plan? They move from machine to machine, sweating and exerting energy, but you can tell they're not really sure what they're trying to accomplish. All that effort, but no clear direction. Many people live their spiritual lives the same way. They're busy, active, and even involved in good things, but they lack the clarity that comes from understanding their God-given purpose. They're running, but they're running aimlessly. Paul understood the danger of this approach. He knew that without clear focus, even the most sincere efforts could be wasted. That's why he was so intentional about evaluating everything in his life through the lens of his calling. Every relationship, every commitment, every activity had to align with the vision God had given him. This doesn't mean you have to be rigid or joyless. It means being selective about where you invest your time and energy. Some opportunities, even good ones, might not be right for you if they don't serve your ultimate purpose. Some relationships, even comfortable ones, might need to change if they're pulling you away from your calling. Clarity brings freedom. When you know where you're going, you can say yes to the right things and no to the wrong things without guilt or confusion. You can run with confidence, knowing that every step is taking you closer to the finish line God has set before you. The question isn't whether you're busy - it's whether your busyness is productive. Are you running with purpose, or are you just running?

Bible Verse: 'Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air.' - 1 Corinthians 9:26



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Reflection Question: Looking at your current commitments and activities, which ones are helping you run toward your God-given vision, and which ones are causing you to run aimlessly?

Quote: Business without clarity drains your spiritual effectiveness. Because if you are distracted with things that are unproductive, that's not going to strengthen you or help you. It will cause you to waste time and all, all of your efforts.

Prayer: God, I don't want to waste the precious time and energy You've given me. Help me see clearly which activities and commitments align with Your purpose for my life and which ones are distractions. Give me the courage to make necessary changes and the wisdom to run with intention toward the vision You've placed in my heart. Amen.



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Day 5: Staying Qualified for the Prize

Devotional: Imagine training for years to compete in the Olympics, only to be disqualified at the last moment because you failed to follow the rules. All that preparation, sacrifice, and dedication would be meaningless. The thought is heartbreaking, yet it illustrates a sobering spiritual truth that Paul understood deeply. Paul lived with a holy fear of being disqualified from the very prize he was encouraging others to pursue. This wasn't insecurity or doubt about God's love - it was a mature understanding that the race requires ongoing faithfulness, not just a strong start. Disqualification doesn't happen overnight. It's usually the result of small compromises that accumulate over time. A little dishonesty here, a compromise there, a gradual drift from the standards that once seemed non-negotiable. Before you know it, the very vision that once burned bright in your heart has been clouded by choices that seemed insignificant at the time. The good news is that staying qualified isn't about perfection - it's about persistence. When you stumble, you get back up. When you drift, you course-correct. When you fail, you repent and return to the path. God's grace covers your mistakes, but it doesn't excuse ongoing rebellion or carelessness. Paul's solution was to 'strike a blow to his body and make it his slave.' This means taking control of the appetites, desires, and impulses that could derail his calling. It means choosing the harder path when the easier one beckons. It means staying faithful even when no one is watching. Your vision is worth protecting. The prize God has set before you is worth the discipline required to reach it. Don't let temporary pleasures rob you of eternal rewards.

Bible Verse: 'No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.' - 1 Corinthians 9:27



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Reflection Question: What areas of your life need greater discipline to ensure you remain qualified for the prize God has set before you?

Quote: I don't want to be disqualified, saints. I don't want to be disqualified. Yeah. In who I am and what God is purpose in me, in and through my life, I am willing to do whatever is necessary.

Prayer: Father, I don't want to be disqualified from the vision You've given me. Help me take seriously the need for ongoing discipline and faithfulness. Show me any areas where I'm becoming careless or compromising. Give me the strength to make my body my slave rather than being enslaved by my appetites. Keep me on the path that leads to Your prize. In Jesus' name, Amen.