

Run the Race – The Right Equipment

October 30-31, 2021

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NIV) - “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, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God”.

Acts 20:22-24 (NIV) – “And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace”.

“**finish**” = Greek *teleos* – “to complete or perfect”

“**race**” = Greek *dromos* – “course or race track”

“**task**” = Greek *diakonos* – “service or ministry”

Acts 20:24 (MSG) – “What matters most to me is to finish what God started: the job the Master Jesus gave me of letting everyone I meet know all about this incredibly extravagant generosity of God”.

Luke 18:16-17 (NIV) – But Jesus called the children to Him and said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it”.

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2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV) – “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work”.

Matthew 10:1 (NIV) – Jesus called His twelve disciples to Him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness”.

“All God’s giants have been weak men who did great things for God because they reckoned on His power and presence with them” – **Hudson Taylor**

Ephesians 6:10 (NKJV) – “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might”.

Ephesians 6:11-13 (NIV) – “Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world, and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore, put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand”.

Ephesians 6:14-17 (NIV) – “Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”.

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2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NIV) – “For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ”.

“Nothing so demoralizes and discourages a warrior as being involved in a spiritual battle, knowing there is a problem of character and integrity in his own life. The little sins we tolerate represent dangerous holes in our bulletproof vests. You can be sure that sooner or later, Satan will aim right at one of those spots” – **Dr. David Jeremiah**, *The Spiritual Warfare Answer Book*

Colossians 3:15a (NIV) – “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts”.

“**rule**” = Greek *brabeuo* – “to act as umpire; to arbitrate”

1 Thessalonians 5:8 (NIV) – “But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet”.

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