

Habakkuk 2:2 - Then the Lord said to me, "Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, so that those who read it can RUN with it." (ESV)...so that a runner can carry it correctly. BIBLE refers to us as Runners/Vision is given to runners! (Im a runner)

theres a command @ start of every race - **ON YOUR MARK, GET SET, GO** (repeat) tough to say w/o excitement & anticipation

Today, Im here with **anticipation & urgency** to say ... **Runners on YOUR Mark** - Runners of the gospel, Runners of hope, Runners of peace, Runners of JOY and purpose, of truth, of righteousness, Unity and living water, healing ... Runners on YOUR MARK!!

ON YOUR MARK --> GOD IS TRYING TO GET A MESSAGE TO US Citygate

—>A Mark in running - a line drawn in the sand to indicate the starting point - you start your race where you draw your line

—> All about being in the right **ORDER & PLACEMENT** - YOUR MARK- in order & right place / Out of Order=disqualified

—> Size up your **opponent** - Eph. 6 NOT running against flesh & blood, but against rulers of darkness, wickedness

GET SET - Prepare Yourself (GET READY to MOVE)

—> All about **POSTURE & PREPARATION** 1) Set your mind (Col 3:2) 2) Fix your eyes on Jesus (Heb 12:2) 3) body trained
Phil. 4:8 NKJV - think this way: true, noble, just, pure, lovely, good report, praise worthy

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 MSG -You've all been to the stadium and seen the athletes race. Everyone runs; one wins. Run to win. All good athletes train hard. They do it for a gold medal that tarnishes & fades. You're after one thats gold eternally. I don't know about you, but Im running hard to the finish line, Im giving it everything Ive got. No sloppy living for me! Im staying alert & in top condition. Im not going to get caught napping, telling everyone else all about it and then missing out myself.

GO! - Usually indicated by loud, startling sound **signaling its time to MOVE - ACCELERATION!!**

Amos 9:13 - Things will happen so fast that your head will swim, one thing fast on heels of the other. U wont be able to keep up. Everything will be happening at once and everywhere you look - blessings!

- Runners start at diff speeds, have different methods, different strides, but one thing they all have in common

1) **RUNNERS AREN'T STILL!!!** In fact the only still people in the race are those watching from the stands.

2) Bottom line - **IF YOU'RE NOT MOVING TODAY, YOU ARE NOT IN THE RACE** (in spite of ur talk & cool clothes)

*Their is a place during the race when runners experience a complete mental & physical blockage... it is called **THE WALL***

Melissa - THE WALL happens usually 3/4 into a distance race -pain -exhaustion -legs cinder blocks -body telling you to stop/give up, why did I do this? ALL stored fuel gone & feel you cant go on... not just want to quit but, DIE!! Crazy thing is you are so close to the end when the WALL hits "my fav part" To overcome WALL - right fuel (belt - truth) & running partner

Galatians 5:7 - You were running the race so well. WHO cut in on you to hinder you and hold you back from obeying the truth? v8 - It certainly isn't God, for He is the one who called you to freedom.

YOU WERE RUNNING SO WELL - WHAT/WHO HAPPENED? WHAT IS HOLDING YOU BACK from obeying the truth?

3 Main things can happen to you when you hit your WALL (place of exhaustion, pain, depletion & heaviness):

1) HINDER YOU - distract & stop you from running (get you to forfeit the race)

What/**WHO** is hindering you? IT ISNT GOD!! An evil spirit sent by your opponent to stop you, called the **HINDERING spirit** - this spirit comes to distract us and create difficulties for us, resulting in delay, disappointment (comparison, contention, criticism)

2) WOUNDS happen at the Wall

80% of runners will suffer from an injury this year while running - **its not if, but when** will they get wounded ...
HOW these runners treat their wound will determine when and if they ever race again...

Kim - NYE 2010 sprained ankle story

- **Its it's not if but when** you get wounded, **how will you treat it:** - said NEVER on stage AGAIN
—>stayed on crutches, **propped my foot up** on a COZY pillow for all to see & eventually TRIP OTHER runners
—>*criticizing those who are running the race you are unwilling to press through & run yourself*

*****An untreated wound invites a WOUNDED SPIRIT into your life.**

YOU may have sat down alone, but your opponent loves to invite his friends to a good long pitty party ...
—>*Mr. Hindering spirit* —> *Mrs. wounded spirit* —> *critical spirit* —> *spirit bitterness* —> *jealousy* —> *strife* —> *resentment, hatred,*
Before you know it, spirit of heaviness and you don't even think of running anymore, bc walking is hard enough!

3) There is something else that happens just on the other side of the WALL —> 2ND WIND!!

A phenomenon in distance running, & other high endurance sports, whereby an athlete who is out of breath and too tired to continue suddenly finds the strength to press on at **top performance with less exertion.**

- push past hindering spirit & wounded spirit —> you will hit your 2nd wind - run faster & easier to victory

Phil 3:14 - This 1 thing I do, forgetting whats behind & reaching for whats ahead, I **PRESS toward the MARK**

- Its impossible to make a MARK w/o PRESSING!!

Altar Call - QUIT @ WALL? WOUND? READY 2 RUN AGAIN - get back in & press through to a 2nd wind?

Salvation - Are you ready to start your race with Christ?

ON YOUR MARK ...

vision series 2021