

HOW TO RUN A GOOD RACE

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I. INTRODUCTION

1 Corinthians 9:25-27 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. 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.

Without discipline, we will fall short of the purpose we want to achieve.

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.”

II. FOUR TIPS TO RUN A GOOD RACE

1. COMMIT TO THE TRAINING

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.

“Discipline is choosing what we want most over what we want now.” - Craig Groeschel

A. Training for your purpose will require a personal commitment to sacrifice.

1 Timothy 4:8 NLT “Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come.”

B. God is looking for your faithfulness, not your perfection.

2. FOCUS ON YOUR PURPOSE

1 Corinthians 9:26 NLT So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing.

A. Goals are your achievement, but a purpose is your lifestyle.

Romans 12:2 NIV Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.

- B. Purpose starts within your heart, but your focus is determined by the discipline of your mind.**
- C. Your greatest spiritual experiences are often followed by your greatest spiritual tests.**

3. RUN WITH A TEAM

Acts 2:44-46 NLT And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity.

A. Three Benefits of Being on a Team

1.) Teammates motivate you to do good.

Hebrews 10:24 NLT Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.

2.) Teammates provide accountability.

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.

3.) Teammates are a support in a time of need.

- When we run as a team, people see the purpose in our life.

Acts 2:47 NLT all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

4. FINISH WITH THE STRENGTH OF YOUR FATHER

2 Timothy 4:6-7 NLT As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God. The time of my death is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful.

Acts 1:8 NLT But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

A. Your race will have hills and hurdles, but your Father gives you the strength to finish.