



LOOKING UNTO JESUS



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SUB-TITLES

- Heavenly Vision
- Run the Spiritual Race
- Goal to Win Christ
- Be as a Good Soldier of Christ
- Be Temperate in all things
- Exhortation
- Joy set before Him



HEAVENLY VISION

JESUS – THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH

- Hebrews 12:1,2

Therefore, let us also, seeing we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

2 looking unto ***Jesus*** the [d]***author and perfecter of our faith***, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising shame, and hath sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.



**Looking unto
Jesus**



Hebrews 12:2

SEEK THE THINGS THAT ARE ABOVE

- If then ye were raised together with Christ, ***seek the things that are above***, where Christ is, seated on the right hand of God. Colossians 3:1
- And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the Plain of the Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before Jehovah destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, ***like the garden of Jehovah***, like the land of Egypt, as thou goest unto Zoar. Genesis 13:10



CITIZEN OF HEAVEN

- ***For our citizenship is in heaven;*** whence also we wait for a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.
Philippians 3:20
- Born in heaven
- Name written in heaven
- Represent as a citizen of heaven
- Follow the rules of heaven
- Show the taste of heaven to others
- Invest in heaven



**Our Citizenship in
HEAVEN**



CITIZEN OF HEAVEN

- ***For our citizenship is in heaven;*** whence also we wait for a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. Philippians 3:20
- Seek God first.
- Live with Gratitude.
- Pursue Righteousness.
- Server others.
- Speak with Grace.
- Temperate in all things.
- Endure with Faith.

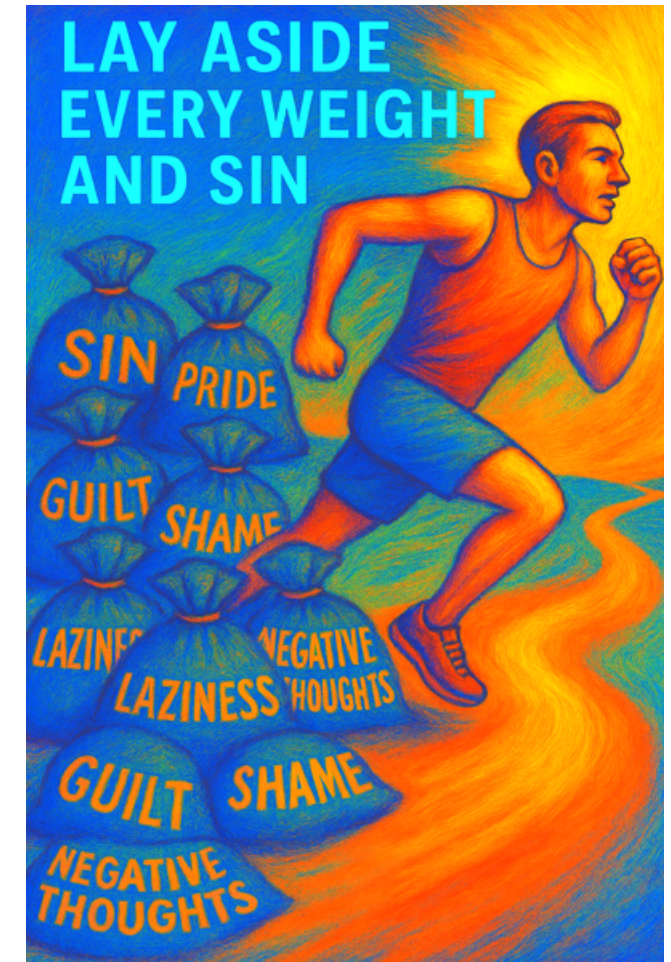




RUN THE SPIRITUAL RACE

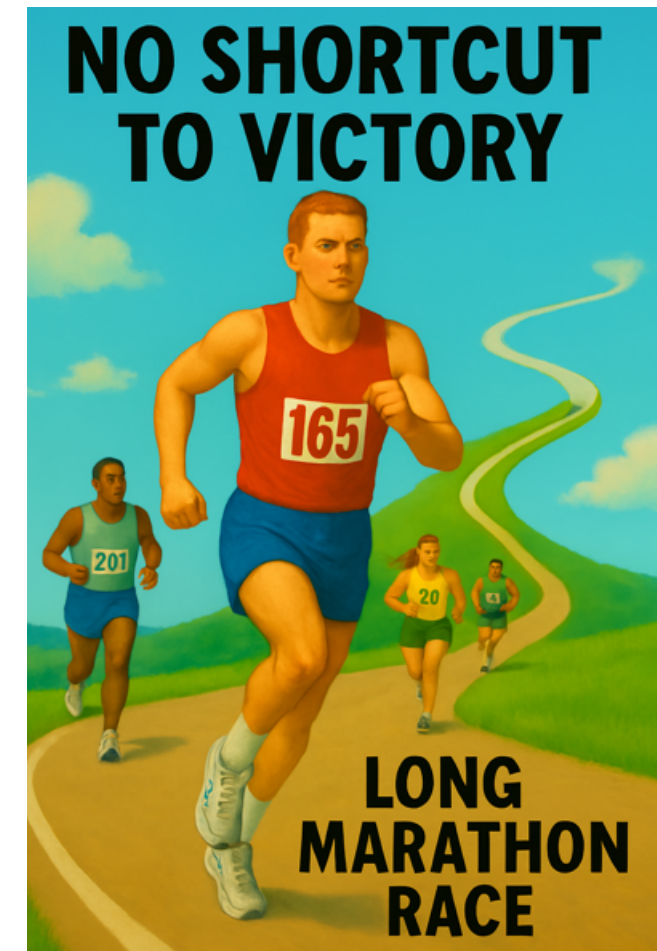
LAY ASIDE EVERY WEIGHT AND THE SIN

- We're running a race of faith, and to run freely, we must cast off anything that slows us down—every weight and the sin that clings so closely.
- Weights can be distractions, habits, or even relationships that drain our focus and dull our spiritual edge.
- Sin, on the other hand, entangles us like vines around a runner's legs, tripping us up just when we need to press forward.
- But when we lay them aside, we run with patience, clarity, and purpose, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith



MARATHON RACE

- The Christian life truly is a marathon, not a sprint—a long, often lonely race where the crowd thins out, the cheers fade, and even those who once encouraged you may step away for a while. But the race continues. And so must we.
- Hebrews 12:1–2 reminds us to ‘run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus’.
- Not looking to the crowd, not even to the coach, but to Christ, who never left the course. He ran it all the way to the cross and beyond.
- There are no shortcuts in this journey. No fast tracks to holiness. No express lanes to glory.



JACOB'S BLESSING

- Jacob's story is an example of how seeking blessings through shortcuts.
- Jacob deceived his father and took Esau's blessing (Genesis 27), but what followed was not peace or joy—it was exile, fear, and years of wrestling with the consequences.
- It wasn't until Genesis 32, when Jacob wrestled with the Lord at Peniel, that he encountered the true blessing. There, stripped of all schemes and strength, he clung to God and said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me." That was no longer the voice of a trickster—it was the cry of a transformed heart.
- Jacob's journey reminds us that true blessing comes not by manipulation, but by surrender. It's not taken—it's received.
- And often, it's in the wrestling, the waiting, and the breaking that we finally meet the Blessor Himself.



MOSES THE LEADER

- Moses' life is an example of God's timing over human ambition. He spent 40 years in Pharaoh's palace, 40 years in the wilderness tending sheep, and only then did God call him to lead Israel. That's eighty years of preparation before stepping into his divine assignment.
- There are no shortcuts in the Christian journey—no fast tracks to spiritual maturity or leadership.
- The wilderness seasons may feel like delays, but they're actually where God forges humility, patience, and dependence on Him.
- As one writer put it, "God took Moses out of Egypt in a day, but it took 40 years to take Egypt out of Moses." Leadership in the Kingdom is not about charisma or credentials—it's about character refined by time and trial.

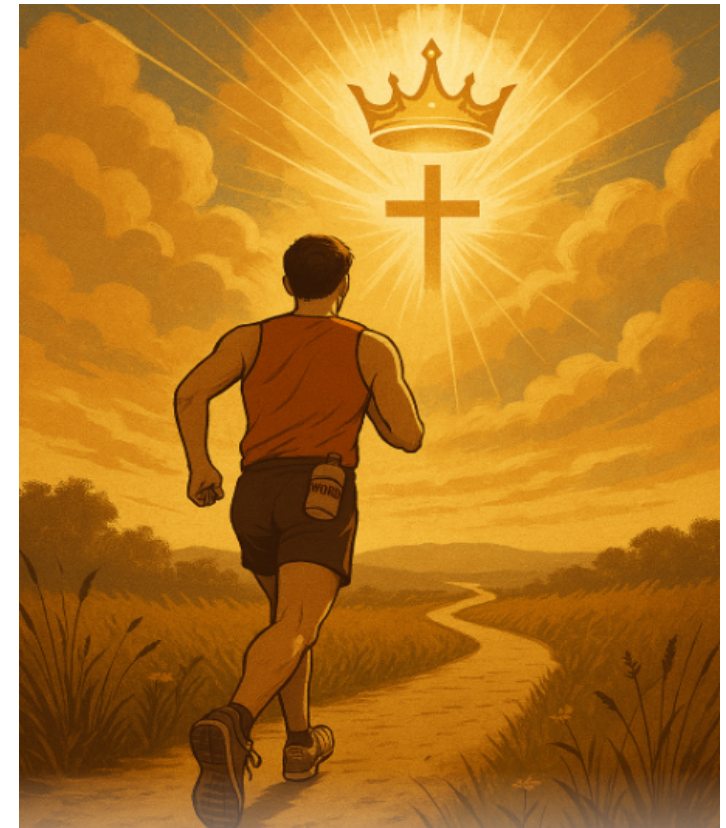




GOAL – WIN CHRIST

GOAL IS TO WIN CHRIST

- Just as every runner fixes their eyes on the finish line, we as believers set our hearts on winning Christ. (Philippians 3:8).
- To be rich in Christ is to be filled with His presence, clothed in His righteousness, and overflowing with the joy of communion with Him.
- Every song of adoration, every whispered hallelujah, every tear shed in worship is a deposit into the eternal riches of knowing Him more deeply.
- True riches are found not in gold, but in GRACE.



HURDLES IN WINNING CHRIST

- Just as a soccer player keeps their eyes on the goal, and pushes through fatigue to score, a believer is called to pursue Christ with unwavering focus and spiritual endurance.
- Scoring a goal in soccer isn't easy because the opposing team is constantly resisting, blocking, and trying to wear you down.
- But God is faithful and will not let you be tempted.
- But just like a skilled striker doesn't give up after one blocked shot, the believer presses on, eyes fixed on Christ, the true prize.



PASS ON THE TEMPTATION

- Temptation as a brick—something heavy, sudden, and potentially harmful—and Christ as the Master Builder.
- Handing the brick over to the Builder, trusting Him to use it for a greater purpose.
- Christ, who is calmly constructing a radiant mansion in the background.
- How trials, when surrendered, become part of something eternal.





BE AS A GOOD
SOLDIER OF CHRIST

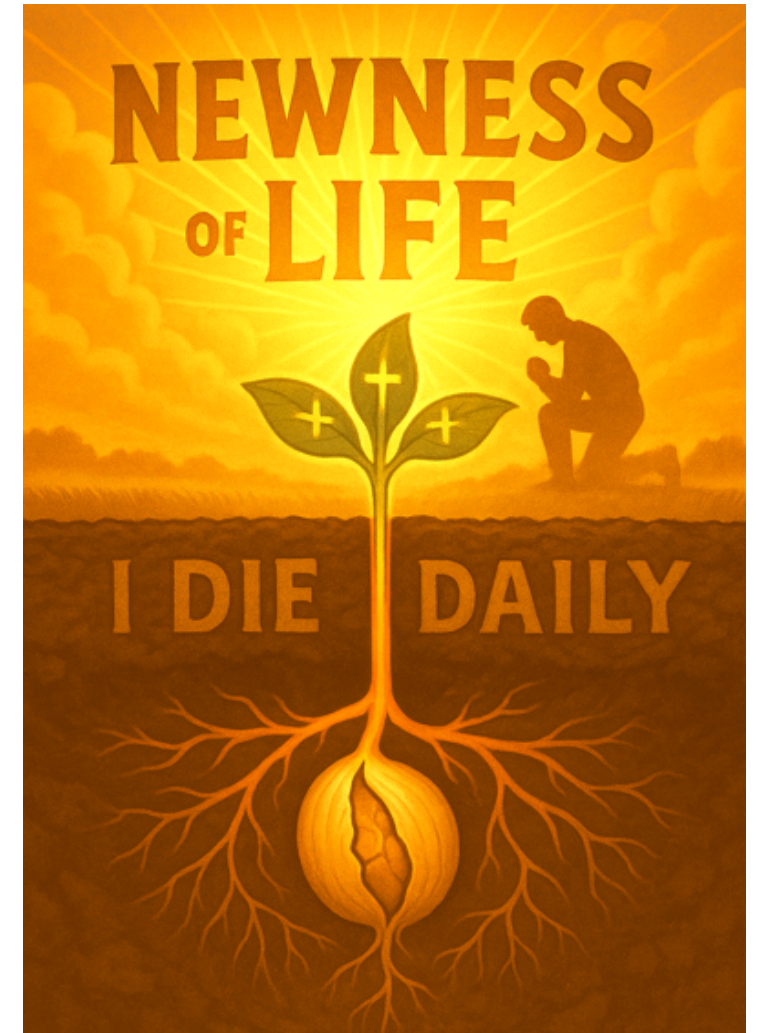
BRING BODY INTO SUBJECTION

- Just as armed forces maintain daily physical training—even during leave—to stay mission-ready, believers are called to spiritual discipline to remain steadfast in faith.
- 1 Corinthians 9:27, saying, *“But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest... I myself should become disqualified.”*
- Soldiers don’t wait for battle to train—they prepare daily. Likewise, believers can’t wait for trials to build spiritual strength.
- Prayer, meditation on the Word, fasting, and worship are our “spiritual drills,” keeping the flesh in check and the spirit sharp.



DIE TO SELF AND WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE

- Paul's 'daily death' wasn't just about physical danger—it was a conscious surrender of ego, comfort, and sin, so that Christ's life could shine through him.
- A seed must break open in the soil—hidden, unseen—before it can rise and bear fruit.
- It's not a one-time event—it's a daily rhythm of dying to sin and rising in Christ's likeness.



TEMPTATION IS NOT FROM GOD

- If someone throws a stick and it injures you, it's not the stick you confront—it's the one who hurled it.
- Likewise, when temptation strikes, we don't just wrestle with the temptation itself.
- James 1:13–15 also teaches that temptation doesn't come from God, but is often stirred by our own desires—and the enemy knows just how to exploit them.
- But when we recognize the source, we can respond not with panic, but with prayerful resistance, just as Jesus did in the wilderness (Matthew 4).



BE A GOOD SOLDIER OF CHRIST JESUS

- A good soldier doesn't just react—they discern, and stand ready.
- Sharpening discernment to recognize the schemes of the enemy.
- Putting on the full armor of God (Ephesians 6:10–18)—truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, and the Word—so we can stand firm when the battle rages.





BE TEMPERATE IN
ALL THINGS

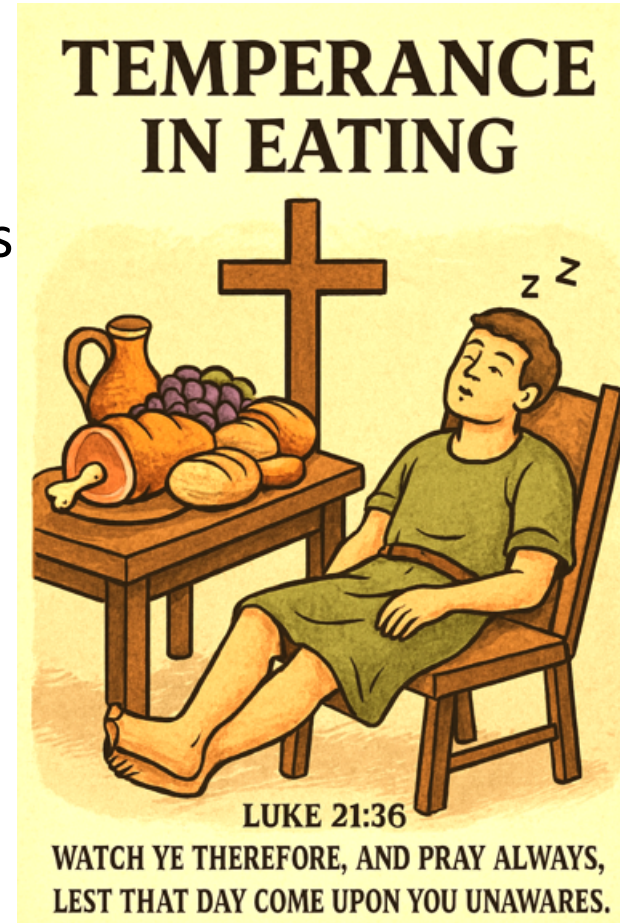
BE TEMPERATE IN ALL THINGS

- 1 Corinthians 9:25: “And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.”
- Athlete exercises temperance, because they’re aiming for a prize. And for the believer, that prize isn’t a fading trophy—it’s Christ Himself, the incorruptible.
- Temperance is choosing what strengthens the spirit over what merely satisfies the flesh.



TEMPERANCE IN EATING

- Overindulgence can dull our alertness, both mentally and spiritually, making us sluggish in prayer, slow to obey, and inattentive to the Spirit's prompting.
- Luke 21:34, where Jesus warns, "Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting."
- Story of the pastor. Before giving advice, he chose to walk the path himself. That's the essence of Christlike mentorship—not just telling, but showing.



ADORN IN MODEST APPAREL

- 1 Peter 3:3–4, where we're reminded that true beauty is not in outward adornment, but in "the hidden man of the heart... a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price."
- *Meekness comes through suffering.* Meekness—it's strength under submission, forged in the fire of trials.
- Just as Christ "learned obedience by the things which He suffered" (Hebrews 5:8), we too are shaped by the cross we carry.
- Without cross, there is no humility, no resurrection, no life.



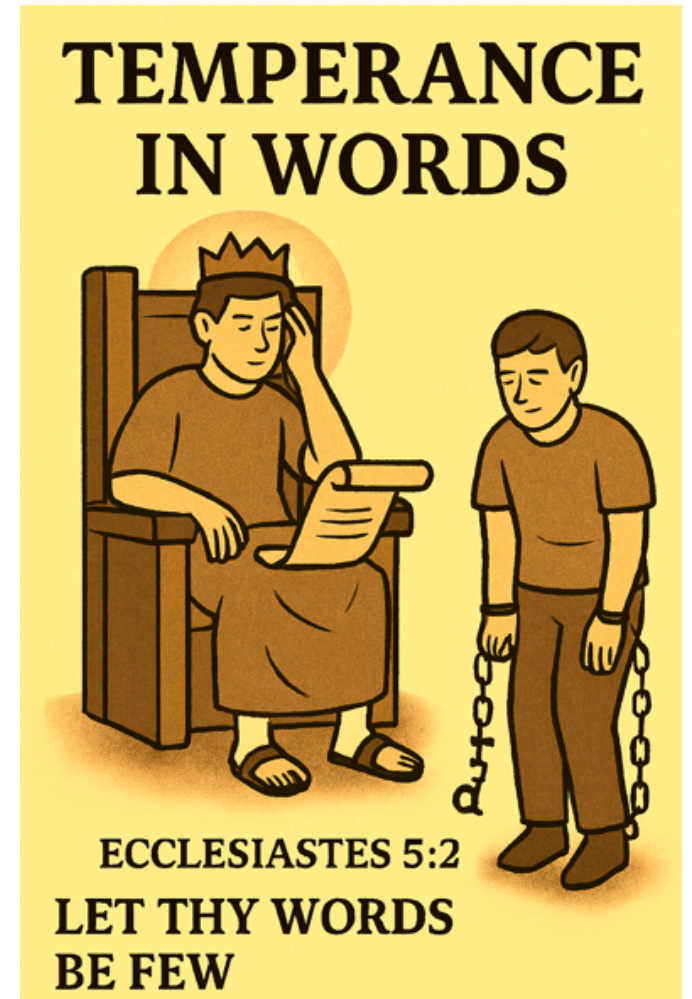
TEMPERATE SLEEP

- Proverbs 20:13: *“Love not sleep, lest thou come to poverty.”*
- This warns against the kind of indulgent sleep that dulls our diligence and steals our purpose.
- There’s a spiritual thief in excessive sleep: it robs us of time, and the readiness to labor for the expansion of the Kingdom God.
- 15 hours of sleep does not give freshness
- Never seen anyone slept long time became rich



TEMPERANCE IN WORDS

- Ecclesiastes 5:2, For God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore, let thy words be few.
- When we hold our words as thoughts, we reign over the—Kings of our inner world.
- But once spoken, those words begin to rule us. They shape perception, bind us to consequences, and,
- We become servants to spoken words.
- When written, they become permanent—etched into memory, law, or legacy and slaves to written ones.





EXHORTATION

REMEMBER LOT'S WIFE – HER RACE WAS STOPPED

- Genesis 19:26: But Lot's wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.
- Lot's wife had nearly escaped judgment, yet her heart turned back even as her feet moved forward.
- Jesus' words in Luke 17:32—"Remember Lot's wife. Jesus didn't elaborate, because the lesson is clear: don't look back.
- When God calls us out of destruction, out of sin, out of the old life, we must not hesitate or long for what He's delivering us from.
- Spiritual progress can be undone by a single act of the heart.





JOY SET BEFORE
HIM

JOY THAT WAS SET BEFORE HIM

- Jesus endured the cross not merely out of duty, but for the joy set before Him—the joy of returning to the Father.
- Joy of completing the redemptive work, and of receiving the glory and crowns that awaited Him at the right hand of God.
- The joy of bringing many sons to glory (Hebrews 2:10), of opening the way for us to be reconciled with the Father.
- Jesus becomes both our example and our forerunner.



RECEIVING THE ETERNAL REWARDS

- The Crown of Righteousness – For those who long for Christ's return and live in anticipation of His appearing (2 Timothy 4:8).
- The Incorruptible Crown – For those who practice self-discipline and run the race with endurance, resisting worldly temptations (1 Corinthians 9:25).
- The Crown of Life – For those who endure trials and persecution, even unto death, loving God above all (James 1:12; Revelation 2:10).
- The Crown of Glory – Often called the shepherd's crown, given to those who faithfully care for and lead God's people (1 Peter 5:4).
- The Crown of Rejoicing – Also known as the soul-winner's crown, for those who lead others to Christ and rejoice in their salvation (1 Thessalonians 2:19).

