GRACE AMBASSADORS
Justin Johnson

Striving for Mastery
The fight against the mediocre Christian

Purpose:
Motivating us towards mastery in our everyday lives

Outline:

> *"And every man that striveth for mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible"*
> **- 1 Corinthians 9:25**

1. **Mastery and Temperance –** 1 Cor 9:24-27
   a. We run so that we may obtain!
   b. The commitment of temperance – moderating to achieve – Titus 1:8,2:2
   c. The high calling and our crown (glory) – Job 19:9, 1 Thess 2:12, 19-20
   d. Fighting not uncertainly – fight focused and fervently – Romans 12:11
   e. Christians are sometimes the most confused, uncertain, mediocre folks in the market. 1 Tim 6:12 – Lay hold on eternal life
   f. Phil 3:20 – our conversation in heaven

2. **Mastery over the doctrine** – *the cutting edge*
   a. The knowledge of Christ, focusing on the prize
   b. Eph 1:18 – that ye may know what is the hope of your calling
   c. 2 Tim 1:13 – Hold fast the form of sound words
   d. Titus 1:9 – Holding fast the faithful word
   e. Joshua 1:8 – meditate day and night
   f. 2 Tim 2:15 – Study ….a workman
   g. How to master the doctrine: Bible study, prayer, fellowship with those who labor in the doctrine (1 Tim 5:17, 1 Tim 4:13 – 'til I come')

3. **Mastery over the lusts of the flesh** – *'controlling our demons'*
   a. Walking after the spirit not the flesh, subjecting your body – 1 Cor 9:27
      i. Proverbs 12:24 – the diligent can bring your body under rule
   b. Earthly vs. Heavenly things – Phil 3:19-20
   c. How to master the unknown lusts: Read over Romans 1:29-32; Gal 5:19-21; evaluate and eliminate

4. **Mastery over our occupation/time –** *'excel, succeed, and prosper'*
   a. Eph 5:16 – redeem the time the days are evil (Col 4:5)
   b. Proverbs 13:4 – 'the soul of the sluggard desireth and hath nothing' – Sluggards beat the air
   c. Proverbs 10:24 – Don't be vinegar and smoke to the eyes of God
   d. Col 3:23 – do it heartily as to the Lord
   e. How to master your time:Set goals, fix your attitude, do the work!