

## Run Hard, Run to Win



Life often seems like a race we're madly running in, a "rat race" as they call it, and yet we never get ahead. Truth be known, I'm not much of a runner. A sprinter maybe, as I like to get out quick and dash as fast as I can to the finish line. Quite often my thought is, the faster I get this thing done, the faster the suffering will be over. I haven't trained myself for those longer runs, but the reality is, sprinters don't usually win in long races.

***“Do you not know that those who run in a race all run,  
but only one receives the prize?  
Run in such a way that you may win.”***

*1 Corinthians 9:24*

So when I read passages of scripture that refer to running "in a way to win", or as in the book of James or 1 Peter where it speaks of "endurance," I am convicted on many levels. Lately that word "discipline" has been coming up. Perhaps because in summer we seem to let all discipline go out the window, our routines are different, our activities change, and we can get out of our "normal" disciplines. Often, our quiet times with the Lord take second seat to other things that beckon to us. And as Fall approaches we seem to settle back into a routine, into disciplines for our days.

Discipline is not a pleasant word in my vocabulary, I much prefer to be a "fly by the seat of my pants" kind of girl. Discipline is monotonous, it takes time, correction, effort, work! Think of watching ice skaters who have disciplines they must be proficient in. You've probably seen them in the Olympics doing the precise circles, lines, movements. I'm sure practicing them over and over and over again must be boring. They aren't meant to be showy, they are disciplines. But, we realize it is in practicing the disciplines, the basics, that allows them the ability to do the jumps and twirls and the things that inspire and take our breath away.

Having the discipline of being in God's word daily does the same for us. It prepares us, trains us so that we can accomplish the jumps and twirls, the things that inspire and take our breath away. Being disciplined to be in God's word prepares us for the challenges that we face in our days. It prepares us to run the race set before us so that we can run in way to win.

Aren't you thankful for God's grace that provides everything we need to finish the race He has set before us? It was through His Son, Jesus Christ that the ultimate race was ran in such a way that each of us can become winners. It is in Him that we have the victory. Does that change our perspective of running the race? Do we look at the race differently knowing that we have already won? I think quite often we tend to take that the wrong direction and slack off, not

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train, skip the disciplines, because He already won it for us. But WHAT IF we ran it in a way that was FITTING for the winner, how different would our race be?

Luke 6:40 says, "**A pupil is not above his teacher, but everyone, after he has been fully trained will be like his teacher.**" And that is the goal, the prize, to be like Christ Jesus. He ran to win, and breathed His last as He said, "**It is finished.**" We are now called to live out the race, to endure, to train, be disciplined to follow after Him. His example was of humility and total submission. He finished His course. And won!

Live in His victory today by running the race set before you. Run Hard, Run to Win!

*Father, what a tremendous gift it is that after setting the course for our race, You then gave us the victory when we are so undeserving. We fail so often to prepare to run, we don't study the course or read the map. How strange and marvelous to know Your grace makes up for our lack. Our Great Provider. Our strength to endure. Help us to be diligent to keep our eyes on the prize and run hard after You today.*