



I. APPROACHING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE AS A RACE

Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! 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.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (NLT)

(See also Galatians 2:2, 5:7; Philippians 2:16, 3:14; 2 Timothy 2:5, 4:7-8 and James 1:12)

II. WAYS I CAN WIN THE RACE—HEBREWS 12:1-28

1. Follow the example of other winners (v.1a)

2. Remove anything that hinders my victory (v.1b)

3. Decide to finish what I start (v.1c)

There has never been the slightest doubt in my mind that the God who started this great work in you would keep at it and bring it to a flourishing finish on the very day Christ Jesus appears.

Philippians 1:6 (TMSG)

4. Stay focused on the source of victory—Jesus Christ (v.2-4)

Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

Philippians 2:12-13 (NLT)