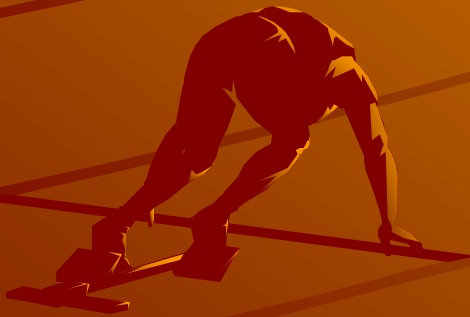


Running for the Crown



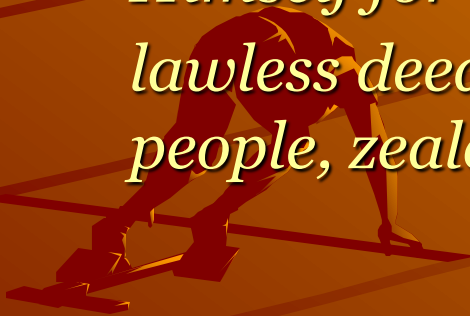
Running for the Crown

1Corinthians 9:24-27



- ◆ *Psalms 44:21. Shall not God search this out? For He Knoweth the secrets of the heart.*
- ◆ *I Corinthians 9:24-27. 24. Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receive the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. 25. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we an imperishable crown. 26. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight not as one who beats the air. 27. But I discipline my body & bring it into subjection, lest when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.*

Titus 2:11-14. 11. For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12. teaching us that denying ungodliness & worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously & godly in the present age, 13. Looking for the blessed hope & glorious appearing of our great God & Savior Jesus Christ, 14. who gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from every lawless deed & purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.



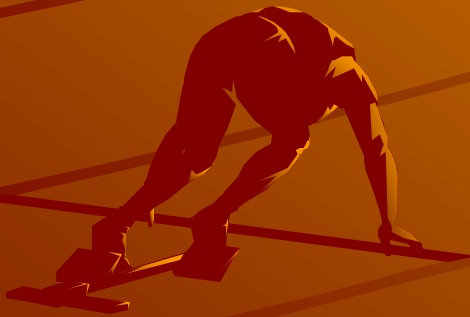
Hebrews 12:1-2. 1. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight & the sin which so easily ensnares us, let us run with endurance the race set before us, 2. looking to Jesus the author & finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame & has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.



1. Concentrate on our goal.
2. Confidence in the Lord's ability.
3. Disciplined/Self Disciplined.
4. Committed to finishing the race.



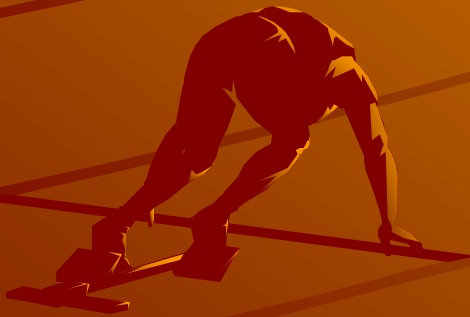
✦ *A. We must concentrate on our goal. We must train our minds to stay focused on our heavenly rewards*



Col.3:2. "Set your minds on things above, not on things on the earth."

Philippians 4:6-9 " 6. Be anxious for nothing but in everything by prayer & supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God; 7. & the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts & minds through Christ Jesus. 8. Finally brethren whatsoever thing are true, whatsoever things are noble, whatsoever thing are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue & if there is anything praiseworthy, meditate on these things. 9. The things that you have learned & received & heard & saw in me, these do, & the God of peace will be with you.

- ✦ *2 Timothy 2:15. Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*
- ✦ *I Thess. 5:16. Pray without ceasing.*
- ✦ *Matthew 21:22. And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.*



- *B. We must have confidence. We must have confidence in Gods ability & not our own, to overcome all the obstacles that Satan will throw at us.*



- ◆ *Hebrews 3:14. For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end*
- ◆ *Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”.*



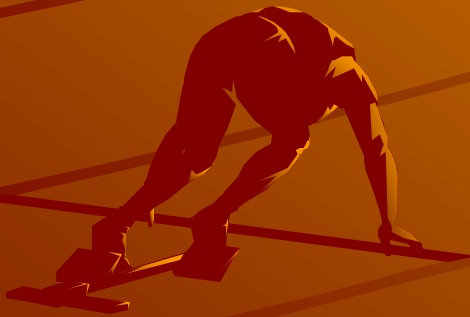
- ◆ *James 4:8. Draw near to the Lord & he will draw near to you...*
- ◆ *2 Timothy 4:7-8. 7. "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8. Finally there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord the Righteous Judge will give to me on that day, & not to me only but to all that love His appearing.*



- *C. We need to be discipline/self discipline. Discipline is necessary to produce a certain character or pattern of behavior to improve ourselves spiritually.*



✦ *Hebrews 12:11. Now no chastening seems to be joyous for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruits of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.*



OUR RESPONSE TO DISCIPLINE...

- 1. We can accept it without question.*
- 2. We can have self pity & think it was undeserving.*
- 3. We can be angry & resentful about it.*
- 4. We can accept it as an appropriate response by those that love us.*



✦ *Proverbs 3:11-12. 11. My son do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor detest His correction; 12. For whom the Lord loves He corrects, just as the father the son in whom he delights.*



Spiritual Self-Discipline

- ◆ *To love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, & with all thy mind. Matthew 22:37*
- ◆ *To love your neighbor as yourself. Matthew 22:39.*
- ◆ *To pray. Matthew 6:6*
- ◆ *To study. I Timothy 2:15.*
- ◆ *To worship. John 4:24.*

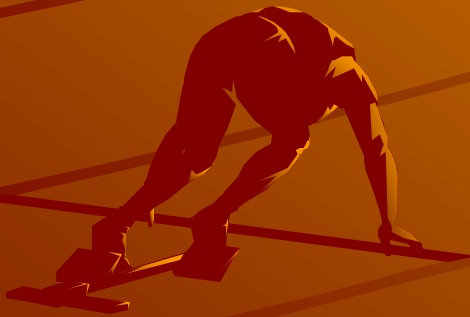


To develop the discipline we need it will take:

- 1. The desire to change what needs to be changed.*
- 2. The will power to see it through.*
- 3. Gods power to make it happen.*



◆ *D. We must be committed. This is the driving force which will prevent us from being sidetracked by family, work & social issues.*



- *Luke 9:23. Then he said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, & take up his cross daily, & follow me.*
- *Romans 12:1. “I beseech you therefore brethren by the mercies of God that you present your bodies a LIVING SACRIFICE, holy, acceptable to God, which is our reasonable service”.*
- *Proverbs 16:3. “commit to the Lord whatever you do & your plans will succeed”.*



If you loose your commitment to the Lord...

- ✦ *You lost your concentration & you let something distract you.*
- ✦ *You lost your confidence in God & doubted the His ability.*
- ✦ *You're just not disciplined enough & doing the things you know you're supposed to be doing for the Lord.*



Running for the Crown



“We can do It”