

Running By Randy Henson

Acts 20:24

I consider my life worth nothing to me if only I may finish the race and complete the task that the Lord has given me.

Running is about finishing

We're all different; we all have a different run, but our goal is very similar

When it comes to life, it's not how fast you start the race...

It's how you finish

1 Corinthians 9:25-27

Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

Our life in Christ is a super-endurance marathon

You train to finish.

2 Timothy 4:7

I've fought the good fight. I've finished the race. I've kept the faith.

PREPARATION

Hebrews 12:11-13

For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.

This is where you are developing the necessary skills to finish

Running is more than one foot in front of the other

Being a successful Christian is more than just going to church

You have to have a steady diet

A diet is more than just bread alone

The Word

People leave churches all of the time with the super spiritual excuse of "I just wasn't being fed"

I believe this is something that people say to avoid confronting their real issues

If you are only eating on Sunday and Wednesday you are not healthy

If you are only getting the Word on Sunday and Wednesday your spiritual life is going to be anemic

The kind of wisdom that the Bible offers takes discipline to extract

The pain of discipline costs far less than the pain of failure

Prayer is another discipline that we must have in preparation for our race

PARTNERS

1 Corinthians 9:25

To win the contest, you must deny yourself many things that would keep you from doing your best. We do it for a heavenly reward that never disappears. So I run straight to the goal with purpose in every step.

We are supposed to be engaged downward, sideways and upward

All 3 are necessary

Paul had the 3 levels

Barnabas / Silas / Timothy

Barnabas - Mentor
to receive from
someone to look up to

Silas – partner in ministry
Peer equal
In it together
close spiritually

Timothy – person of faith with less spiritual maturity
Friend to pour into
Helps them understand how to run the race

We are a church who strongly believes in ministering to and serving the next generation

Salvation is our #1 mission

We can be focused on lots of things but without salvation life comes to a frightening end

People can get to heaven hungry, sick, broke, drunk, drugged, divorced, bitter

But can't get them to heaven without salvation

Our #2 mission is being the best ministers of mission #1 that we can be

Requiring discipline, attentiveness, boldness

We are always looking for running partners that see the importance of the race

Power

Where does the power come from to finish the race?

From your preparation and your partners

The Wall

When you hit the wall in your Christian race...and you WILL hit the wall

Will you have prepared enough?

Will you be deeply rooted in God's Word so that you will not be shaken?

Will your constant communion with your Father in prayer be a strong enough connection to pull you through?

Isaiah 40:29-31

He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

No one pushes through the wall on their own strength

This life in Christ was not designed for us to do on our own

You cannot make it to the finish line alone

We need each other

Run as if running for the Lord

Colossians 3:23-24

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward...