



The Amazing Race

Hebrews 12:1-3 (NLT) ¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. ² We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. ³ Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (NLT) ²⁴ Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! ²⁵ 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. ²⁶ So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. ²⁷ 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.

If we are going to finish the race, we must not grow weary, but learn to pace ourselves with commitment.

Philippians 3:13-14 (NLT) ¹³ No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

- Sometimes it's going to hurt, but persevere and PRESS TOWARD THE GOAL.

We Need the Right Equipment

- The whole ARMOR of God. (Ephesians 6:11)
- We have the mind of Christ. (Philippians 2:5)
- The BLOOD of Christ. (Hebrews 9:14)
- Jesus as Intercessor. (Romans 8:26)
- The Word of God. (Romans 10:8)

Back to Hebrews 12:1: The word "endurance" is the word Hupemone which translated means "steady determination."

Learn to Travel Light

2 Timothy 4:7-8 (NLT) ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. ⁸ And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.

- The key to believers finishing and not falling is shedding some weight.
- A weight is anything that would tear the people of God away from Him.

Harmless or Harmful

- 1) Does it build me up spiritually?
- 2) Does it bring me under its power?
- 3) Do I have an uneasy conscience about it?
- 4) Could it cause someone else to stumble?

Back to Hebrews 12: How do you finish the race and make it safely across the finish line? By LOOKING TO JESUS.

Life Groups

Scriptures that Relate:

Monday: Hebrews 11 Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 9 Friday: Philippians 3
Tuesday: Hebrews 12 Thursday: Philippians 2 Saturday: Philippians 4

Talk it Over:

1. How is your Christian life like a race?
2. How do we press toward the goal?
3. What are some of the weights that trip us up?
4. How do you practically focus on Jesus in everyday life?

Pastor Brian's Prayer Requests

Monday: Pray for someone in your family who is struggling.

Tuesday: Pray a prayer of praise for a blessing in your life.

Wednesday: Pray for students of all ages finishing up school.

Thursday: **Pray for someone you don't really like, but you need to love.**

Friday: Pray for that person you know who has yet to surrender to Jesus.

Saturday: Pray for our services this weekend.