

Run in Such a Way!

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1 Cor 9:25 *Everyone who competes for a prize is*
1 Cor 9:27 *I discipline myself so as not to disqualify*
1 Cor 9:24 *Run in such a way that you obtain E.L.*
Philippians 3:14 *I press toward the mark for the prize*
1 Tim 6:12 *Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on*
2 Tim 4:7 *I have run the race and guarded the faith*
Genesis 1:29 *God has given green plants & fruit trees*
Heb 12:11 *a spiritual harvest of righteousness and*
Heb 4:13 *Nothing in all creation is hidden from God*
Ephesians 5:8 *For you were once darkness, but now*

Theme: **Persevere through trials and tests**

1 The Christian life is an endurance *race* to win an eternal *prize!* Every new day presents new challenges, obstacles, and hurdles to get over, around, or through with God's help.

2 Our Redeemer coaches us to success and enables us to finish the course with our faith and trust still on Him.

3 Much can be learned from the time and energy expended by an Olympic athlete. They put forth an enormous amount of time, study, and focus to obtain a perishable crown, but the believer expends their time and energy to win an *imperishable* crown of eternal life!

4 Olympic games take place every four years, and the apostle Paul uses this well-known competition

to remind us of the challenges and struggles of the Christian life. Both take much training to complete the race and to win a medal or a mansion. NKJV 1 Corinthians 9:24 *"Run in such a way that you may obtain it."*

5 We thus compare our training *by* God and our commitment *to* God as we run the *Christian* race to that of an Olympian athlete. The *time, dedication, and energy* it takes to be a skilled athlete is the *time, dedication, and commitment* it takes to be a true believer in this *Christian* race.

6 We learn from the intense *devotion* and *perseverance* of these sports competitions, as it takes an *enormous* amount of time and continually *practicing* godly attitudes to obtain the crown of eternal life. The *struggles* and *triumphs* of Olympic games are the *persecutions* and *victories* of the *Christian* life—a *race* resulting in a *prize far greater than a gold medal!*

7 We run the Christian race as an athlete who trains many hours every day. In a similar way, we trust God every *hour* through every *day* for His ability to meet all situations encountered in a scriptural way—*resisting* temptations; *praying* for strength; *asking* for patience; and *trusting* Him for success with any task set before us.

8 An athlete listens to the *words* of their *coach* as we listen to the *voice* of our divine Coach—entering each day and facing each challenge in *His* strength alone.

We easily relate to the words of the apostle AV **Philippians 3:14** *"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."*

9 Sports competitions produce skilled athletes, but the believer knows that they have something much

better to *win*—and definitely Someone much *greater* to *trust* every day—ininitely *superior* and far more *important* than any game or prize.

10 Any prize or medal won in sports is valued by the participant, but its value pales when compared to the *eternal crown* obtained by the believer in Christ who *stays* in the race and *endures* in their faith in Christ to the very end.

11 Sports races are run in *human* strength but the Christian race in *divine* strength. God gives us the ability to trust Him through every trial and to eventually obtain an imperishable crown.

WEY 1 Timothy 6:12 *"Exert all your strength in the honourable struggle for the faith; lay hold of the Life of the Ages, to which you were called."*

12 The athlete *runs* for the *gold* but our *race* is for the *prize* of Paradise! We train and practice every day by meeting every *situation* and *person* in a scriptural manner with God's help.

WEY 2 Timothy 4:7 *"I have gone through the glorious contest; I have run the race; I have guarded the faith. AV 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness."*

13 The faith to *trust* God is by the gift of the *Spirit* of God Who *inspires* us to believe and *empowers* us to get *around* any obstacle; to get *over* any hurdle; and to make it *through* any temptation—without giving in to discouragements, deceptions, and the lies of the devil.

14 The athlete starts the day with a *purpose* and a *goal*—thinking that all the training, the energy, and all the sacrifices are worth it to obtain a medal.

NKJV **1 Corinthians 9:25** “*Everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.*”

15 As a believer, we begin the day with purpose—keeping our eyes on the goal and knowing that all the learning; the tests; the difficulties, or trials along the way, will be worth all the time and training—because it is done NIV **1 Corinthians 9:25** “*to get a crown that will last forever.*”

16 The believer prepares for a life of faith by committing to many years of training under the watchful eye of a loving and All-powerful God—always depending on the Holy Spirit to guide us, show us wrong attitudes, and to train us along the way as we head toward God’s kingdom.

17 Running the race of life is being aware of the opponent we face. NKJV **1 Corinthians 9:26** “*Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. 27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.*”

18 We can disqualify ourselves through lack of discipline; too little training; not keeping our eye on the goal; failing to read the plan of the Bible; or simply by refusing to learn from the challenges presented along life’s path. These challenges can be diverse—like temptations we meet; insults we hear; and offenses we encounter. We often trip over them rather than learn from them.

19 Meeting difficult tests in a scriptural way brings glory to God. Our scriptural response to those difficulties shows that the Spirit of Christ is in our heart.

With every interaction with others, we ask God for the ability to respond in a way that is in line with His will and Word. He will always help us when we take the time to ask Him in prayer.

20 Whether an athlete, a worker, or housewife, God has provided nourishing foods as part of His plan for the energy we need each day.

AV **Genesis 1:29** “*God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for food.*”

21 There is no need to hire a nutritionist, as the Bible has already given a perfect plan and an ideal diet—fruits and vegetables.

We just need to read His plan and be willing to follow it—including getting proper sleep; daily exercise; training in godly attitudes toward people we meet, and always focusing on the eventual goal of God’s plan for the believer.

22 The apostle was spiritually ready to face every battle with the enemy as he began each day. NLT **1 Timothy 6:12** “*Fight the good fight for what we believe. Hold tightly to the eternal life that God has given you.*”

23 An athlete hires a coach to write out a plan, but the believer calls on God to help them follow His proven plan of the Bible by the power of His Spirit.

NKJV **Ephesians 5:8** “*For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth).*”

24 Every day the Holy Spirit coaches us to respond to each person and situation in a right and scriptural manner.

It is the Holy Spirit **Ephesians 1:14** “*who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.*”

25 Believers in the Bible rose early in the morning to face a variety of challenges—facing them always in faith and by trusting God to give them success with each one.

Responding to difficult situations as His Word says produces spiritual fruit—“*a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it*” NIV **Hebrews 12:11**.

26 The One to whom we give account of our training program and exercise regime is our Coach, our Guide, and the Savior of our soul! NIV **Hebrews 4:13** “*Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.*”

27 It is certainly worth it all in the final analysis, because it results in an eternal crown of Eternal life.

NKJV **1 Corinthians 9:24** So run in such a way that you may obtain—something Far Greater than Gold—God’s glorious kingdom!



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