

## January 5, 2025

Run the Race

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

In the final verses of chapter 9, Paul compares believers to elite athletes. He argues, if athletes subject their lives and bodies to rigid training to win an earthly reward, how much more should believers subject their lives to rigid training in order to win a heavenly reward. Believers live this way with the specific purpose of impacting our world with the Gospel.

### Additional Verses:

Matthew 28:19-10

Romans 6:15-19

Hebrews 12:1

Acts 1:8

Galatians 2:2, 5:24

### Outline:

1. We run with focus.

2. We run with discipline.

3. We run with purpose.

4. We run with integrity.

### Study Questions:

1. Why does Paul use a metaphor from athletics to challenge believers? What is the main point he communicates?

2. Does knowing you receive a prize impact the way you run? If not, how can that be a motivating factor?

3. How do you run with discipline in your life? Which spiritual disciplines do you regularly practice? What area(s) can you improve?

4. What is a believer's purpose for running according to this passage? How are you running according to that purpose?

5. How can the fear of being disqualified help us run? What are some practical ways to guard yourself from being disqualified?

6. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to respond to God today?