

Commit to Spiritual Growth!

April 25, 2021

Whatever It Takes! Pt. 3

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

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1 Corinthians 9:24-27, *Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. 25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. 26 Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. 27 No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.*

Wrong Question:

Have I Done Enough to Earn Salvation?

Right Question:

Have I Trusted in What Christ Has Already Done for My Salvation?

Ephesians 2:8, *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.*

Philippians 1:6, *being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion...*

Four Keys to Your Spiritual Growth:

1) Get in the Game SPIRITUALLY

1 Corinthians 9:24, *Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.*

1 Timothy 4:8, *For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and*

the life to come.

2) Diligently Practice SELF-CONTROL

1 Corinthians 9:25, *Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.*

2 Timothy 2:5, *Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor's crown except by competing according to the rules.*

3) Follow a Spiritual Growth PLAN

1 Corinthians 9:26, *Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air.*

Colossians 1:9, *...We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, 10 so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, 11 being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, 12 and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.*

4) Run for the PRIZE

1 Corinthians 9:27, *No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.*

2 Timothy 4:7, *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.*

Psalms 40:1, *I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry. 2 He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. 3*

He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the LORD and put their trust in him.