

Run to live or live to Run

I Cor 9:24-27 KJV

Reasons to run: Run-scared, run for the hills, against the wind, in circles, like a chicken, for the roses, on empty, if you're in trouble you can make a "midnight run" for president mayor sheriff, for your life etc.

One reason to run> To Win!

^{1CO 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. 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 a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. ²⁷ No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

I.) Get ready! *What do I do to "get ready"?* Train

A.) Holiness before the Lord ^{RO 6:19} I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to **holiness**. ²⁰ When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. ²¹ What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! ²² But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to **holiness**, and the result is eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

EPH 4:17-5:7

B.) Build up Your Faith! ^{HEB 11:1} Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. ² This is what the ancients were commended for.

^{HEB 11:3} By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

^{HEB 11:4} By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead.

^{HEB 11:5} By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. ⁶ And **without faith** it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Jude 20-21

B.) Be filled with the Holy Ghost! ^{EPH 5:15} Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. ¹⁸ Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be **filled** with the Spirit. ¹⁹ Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C.) *I've never spoken in tongues, I don't have the spirit!* The disciples received the spirit before the manifestation on the day of Pentecost. That is why we need to have faith! John 20:21-23 Breathe on us Lord!

II.) Get set! *On your mark*

A.) Focus on the goal ^{HEB 12:1} Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. ² Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

B.) Focus on the path ^{MT 7:13} "Enter through the narrow **gate**. For wide is the **gate** and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴ But small is the **gate** and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

C.) Focus on the prize ^{2TI 4:6} For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. 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.

D.) Focus on the finish

^{GAL 5:7} You were running a good **race**. Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth? ⁸ That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. ⁹ "A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough."

III.) Go!