

Win the Gold!

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

As I sit here and watch the Olympic Games, it's difficult not to think about this verse from 1 Corinthians. Paul reminds us that everyone competes, but only one gets the prize. Then Paul tells us to run in such a way as to get the prize.

So, I thought it was time to ask ourselves, "Are we living life in such a way that we might win the prize?" And "are we training our children to run in such a way to win?" Often life gets so busy that we forget we're in the race for the long haul. It's easy to begin to just "go with the flow" and become content with the status quo.

But God wants more for us than merely the "status quo." Just like the folks in the stands are routing for their home country's Olympians to win the Gold, God has nothing but the best in mind for us. In fact, in Hebrews 12:1, God reminds us that we too have a cheering section. He says, "since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses" meaning the saints who've gone on before us. And because those onlookers are rooting for us, we should get rid of everything that holds us back and run never giving up. God wants us to succeed, to become the very best we can possibly be! Christ is our championship trainer. He gives us all the advice we need. He is our choreographer and the one who watches our moves and tells us how to perfect them.

The problem arises when we forget we can't win the medal without the strict training. We often think because we personally know the trainer and have read the instruction book, we don't need the strict training required. Even more sad is that this lack of training has probably reinforced the idea for our children. When they don't see us reading the Bible, they don't think they need to. If they never see us praying, they'll believe it's not necessary. It doesn't matter what we do in private. They only know what we do in public (or at least in front of them).

So, what kind of training are you in? Does your spiritual training meet the Olympic standard or is it more haphazard? Or perhaps it's really non-existent. Spring is in the wind. These warmer days are giving us hope of something new. Take this opportunity to begin or beef up your "training." Become a Christian Olympian!

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