



## RUN TO WIN ZOOM CHAPEL

### "RUN TO WIN - HOW TO FIND VICTORY IN SPORTS & LIFE"

God is more concerned with your success than you are! He wants you to win in competition and in life. He desires for you to capture true, lasting VICTORY!

The Apostle Paul, in his writings done often while chained in a dark, dreary dungeon, wrote most of the New Testament and often related athletic competition to life. In 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 he penned these inspiring words, ***"Do you not know that those who run in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. So, they do it to obtain a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Therefore I run in such a way as not to run aimlessly; I box in such a way, as to avoid hitting the air; but I strictly discipline my body and make it my slave, so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified."*** Every athlete must stick to a strict training schedule, so they are prepared for the actual competition. In the race of life, we must train and prepare so that when adversity comes, we can persevere and cross the finish line. Let's look at 5 characteristics that are needed to Run To Win!

**Commitment:** Commitment starts with making a plan and then sticking with that plan to completion. There are a lot of people who start things, but very few strong finishers. In Proverbs 16:3 it says, ***"Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established."*** We need to remember that we are made in God's image and God is a strong finisher who keeps His commitments.

**Discipline:** Discipline in sport, is often defined as "the ability for an individual to exert self-control and behave in a manner that is compliant with the rules and fairness of the sport they are participating in" In 2 Timothy 1:7, it states, ***"For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power, love and self-control."*** When we train for a big race or competition, we need to have the discipline and focus to achieve our goals. Let's have the discipline to keep going!

**Joyful Attitude:** Winners are confident, humble, and grateful. Our attitude really does make a difference in not only what we can accomplish, but also how people respond to us. In Philippians 2:3 it says, ***"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourself, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of others."*** That verse really talks about being humble, servant warriors! And then we also *should* ***"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. This attitude of humility and gratitude will make a difference in our success.

**Perseverance:** This race we are running is a long-distance marathon and we need to have perseverance to win the prize! Hebrews 12:1-2 says, ***"Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith."*** We are all in this race, so we need to have the characteristics to persevere and keep going no matter what!

**Purpose:** Our purpose is to glorify and honor God and be faithful servants of His. In sports competitions, we work hard and compete to win a prize that is described as perishable...in other words not lasting. ***"do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever."*** (1 Corinthians 9:24) Paul talked about making sure that after doing all the planning and training he would not be disqualified. We need to continually fix our eyes on the prize and Run To Win!