



Our salvation is quite certain and totally secure, but our success in our Christian lives is not. That's why the Scriptures teach that living for God's approval requires finishing well. In our primary passage, Paul coaches us to run and fight for the prize. This simple training tip will help us live for God's approval by finishing well.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read and meditate on [1st Corinthians 9:24-27](#). Jot down 1 or 2 new thoughts that seem important. Why are they important?
2. Read [1st Corinthians 9:24](#). What does faithful running look like?
 - a. Who do you know that run in such a way that they may win?
 - b. What has been the focus (finish line) of *my* attention and efforts lately? On what have *my* eyes been focused lately?
3. Considering [1st Corinthians 9:25](#), in what area(s) of your life do you need to exercise self-control?
4. What does Paul's talk about racing and physical training have to do with "relating" to the person or people you are trying to introduce to Christ? (Hint: [verses 25-26](#))
5. In [1st Corinthians 9:27](#), Paul recognized the potential to be "disqualified."
 - a. What sin(s) am I most susceptible to succumb to (e.g., [1st Corinthians 10:7-10](#): idolatry, ingratitude, immorality, grumbling)? How can I guard against these sins? Who will hold me accountable?
 - b. What specific area(s) of my life do I believe God wants me to grow in? What is my plan to grow in these areas?

MOVING FORWARD

Make the following commitments to God.

- I will renew my commitment to run my race with enthusiasm and endurance.
- I will exercise self-control in this area of my life _____.
- I will *focus* my thoughts and intentions on God's kingdom.
- If I don't have one, I will find an accountability partner.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

²⁵ Now everyone who competes exercises self-control in everything. However, they do it to receive a perishable crown, but we an imperishable one." [1st Corinthians 9:25](#)