

Reading: I Corinthians 9:24-27

Topic: The Need For Self-Discipline

INTRODUCTION: Most people who become successful have at some point in their _____ have developed a pattern of self-discipline in _____ to achieve their goals in life.

I. THE ATHLETE:

A. Wants To Win:

1. No athlete, no matter which sport or event they participate in, wants to be the _____, but rather each individual competitor wants to be a _____. I Cor. 9:24
2. The goal is to win the _____, but athletes who participate in the Olympics also aim to get to the finish _____, whether they win first place or not. 2 Tim. 4:7,8
3. At the Barcelona Olympics in 1992, in the 400 meter race, a runner by the _____ of Derek Redmond felt his hamstring snap in two and he collapsed onto the _____ in agony. The medical personnel ran onto the track to help carry him off, but he refused because he wanted to _____ the race! He did!

B. Understands The Path To Victory Is Discipline:

1. No successful athlete gets to participate in the Olympics by _____ no matter how much ability and _____ that they may have.
2. The true competitor knows that the _____ to victory is months and years of hard work, training and self-discipline to _____ the physical body to win a medal.
3. There have been people who have had great ability and _____, but because they lacked the art of self-discipline, they did not turn out to be a _____.

II. THE CHILD OF GOD:

A. Wants To Win:

1. Every child of God wants to run the spiritual _____ and do well, so that one day he/she will get to be in Heaven and _____ eternity with Jesus and the saints of the Most High. Rev. 7:9,10
2. Unfortunately, a number of people who _____ out to follow Jesus do not continue and they end up falling away from the faith and dropping out of the _____ to the finish line. 2 Th. 2:3
3. Though the adversary is out to ruin every _____ of God and destroy their faith, each individual has to make a choice whether to _____ on to the finish or to drop out of the race. 2 Tim. 4:10

B. The Path To Victory Is Self-Discipline:

1. No child of God will get to be a victorious Christian by _____, no matter how great of a testimony they may have, or how great of a _____ they have experienced. Gal. 5:7
2. The true child of God understands that there is no easy way to be an overcoming _____, but it takes the self-discipline of daily spiritual _____ to be victorious. Mk. 8:34
3. There have been believers who have had great potential, with _____ and ministerial abilities to be very effective in the _____ of God, but because they lacked the spiritual discipline to obtain the anointing, they end up being ineffective or even backsliding. Acts 1:16-18

III. THE NEED FOR SPIRITUAL SELF-DISCIPLINE:

A. The Weakness of The Flesh:

1. Our born-again experience is a wonderful miracle that makes us a new _____ in Jesus Christ, but It is very important to recognize that our _____ is born again but our flesh is not. 2 Cor. 5:17
2. There is a constant struggle between the _____ and the Spirit of God, and any believer who does not realize that and face the fact that the flesh is one of the _____ of our spirituality will not be a victorious Christian. Rom. 7:18-24

B. The Tools To Win:

1. The Word of God gives the directions to the _____ to victory for every believer:
 - a. Daily Prayer – Jesus gave this warning to His disciples and it still _____ today. Mt. 26:41
 - b. Warring in Prayer – The Word of God instructs us to put on the whole armor of God in order to be a victorious _____ in this spiritual battle which includes the weapon of _____. Eph. 6:17,18
 - c. Word of God – The importance of knowing and using the _____ of God on a daily basis to both _____ our souls and chase the adversary cannot be underestimated. Mt. 4:10,11
 - d. The Fellowship With The Body of Christ – We were not designed by God to be spiritual _____ that live an isolated life but we _____ the ministry of the Body to each of us, as well as being a contributor to the ministry of the Body of Christ. Acts 2:42, I Cor. 14:26

C. The Spiritual Discipline To Do Those Things:

1. It is one thing to _____ the spiritual disciplines that make one a victorious and overcoming believer but it is another thing to put those same disciplines into practice in our daily _____. Lk. 8:21
2. Unless one makes the determination and uses the discipline to _____ into practice the things that make a victorious believer, one will end up being a mediocre believer or perhaps even a _____.
3. The Apostle Paul took his _____ by the neck and made himself do the spiritual disciplines in order that he not become a useless and worthless _____ of God. I Cor. 9:27
4. Just like one has developed certain daily routines and _____ in life, so also every child of God must form the spiritual disciplines and _____ them a part of his/her everyday life. Lk. 9:23, I Cor. 15:31

CONCLUSION: There have been many people who had great _____ to be effective in the Kingdom of God, but because they never applied the principles of spiritual disciplines to their personal _____, they failed.