

Running to Win September 6/7, 2008

We are Christ's Olympians, His "Grace Runners," who run to show the world that Jesus Christ is God. 1 Peter 2:9, Matthew 5:14, 16

Grace Runners:

- 1. Accept** their call to run for His glory in their sector of society. They see themselves as "marketplace ministers" pastoring the people they work or live with.
- 2. Run Light** - Deal with whatever weight slows them down by daily coming to Christ and unloading it.
- 3. Run Free** - Strip off whatever sin trips them up
- 4. Run Focused** - Keep their eyes on Jesus Christ. Heb. 12:2-3
- 5. Run to WIN!** 1 Corinthians 9:19-27

1. Paul ran in every relationship to win people for Jesus Christ. Winning was everything for Paul!

"I have become all things to all men, that I may by all means save some." (vs. 22)

2. He embraced a life of discipline so nothing would disqualify him. He did whatever it took to win. *"But I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified."* (vs. 9:27)

3. It's not a sin to run to win – it's a sin not to! *"Run in such a way that you may win!"* (vs. 24b)

Running to Win

1. We are following a Winner! He is victorious over everything that people battle with and makes everyone who believes in Him part of His winning team. 1 John 5:4-5

2. He's given us everything we need to win. He can even turn momentary defeats into victories as we refuse to quit. Romans 8:35, 37, Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, 1 John 4:4

3. He is giving "divine plays" for winning to believers who are committed to winning like Paul. Acts 17:16-17, 22-28

The key to winning is not just bringing people to church one day a week but **being** the church and taking Christ to people 6 days a week. Real ministry can take place at our work, our schools, our neighborhoods and our businesses if we live to win everywhere for Christ. That is God's will for us!

Christ can **transform** not only sinners into saints but He can transform schools, prisons, businesses, hospitals, workplaces, cities, counties, states and nations into places where His glory radiates and people are blessed.

4. Jesus has the "golden key" for winning every sector of society for Him. Luke 6:31 - *Treat others as you would want them to treat you!*

- a. Pray** for and **ble**ss the people in your sector of society and neighborhood.
- b.** Develop a **friendship** with them
- c. Care** genuinely for their needs as their pastor
- d. Share** Christ with them in love when the Holy Spirit tells you to. We can win people for Christ by helping them win at what is important to them. No one wants to fail in their key relationships—father, mother, friend, employer, coworker

First Fall Series : The Golden Key: Luke 6:31

Book: *Winning With People* by John Maxwell

DVD: Key relationship principles and stories to help people win in their relationships.

We can win people for Christ while learning together how to win in our own relationships. That's a win-win for Jesus Christ and us.

- Dedicate your work and neighborhood to Christ,
- Discover your "marketplace ministry",
- Join or lead a small group,
- Form a neighborhood group,
- Form a group at work.

Will you run to win with us? Will you accept your calling as Christ's Olympian who runs for His glory in the sector of society He has chosen and anointed you for? **Isaiah 61:1**

Discussion Questions:

- 1) When you play sports or cards, do you play to win? Do you think it's bad to want to win? Read 1 Corinthians 9 :19-27. What was Paul's attitude about winning as a Christian?
- 2) Do you see yourself as Christ's Olympian, His champion for the people in your neighborhood and where you work? Read Paul's speech in Acts 17. He went to where people were to connect Christ to them. What touched your heart as you watched the video about Hawaii? Do you believe that could happen here?
- 3) Review the four things we can do to reach our neighbors and coworkers. (Pray and Bless; Friendship, Care and Share) . Will you embrace these things to win your sector of society for Christ?