

HEBREWS 12:1

Racing to Win

Run the race set before us

SERMON

OPENING IMAGE

Running Backwards

- Read the verse forward
- Break down the phrases
- Build it back from the end

SCRIPTURE ANCHOR

Hebrews 12:1

Therefore, since we also have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us let's rid ourselves of every obstacle and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let's run with endurance the race that is set before us.

Hebrews 12:1

Hebrews 12:1 in Reverse

- The race that is set before us
- Let's run with endurance
- Let's rid ourselves of every obstacle and sin
- A great cloud of witnesses surrounding us

MAJOR POINT 1

Run the Right Race

the race that is set before us

APPLICATION

What Are You Racing For?

- Why are you racing for it?
- Are you running the right race?

JESUS' DIRECTION

Seek First

Seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided to you.

Matthew 6:33

DIRECTION

Every Race Has a Finish Line

- A defined start
- A defined path
- A defined finish line
- Are you listening for God's direction?

MAJOR POINT 2

Run with Endurance

let's run with endurance

MAIN THOUGHT

The Race of Our Lives

Because it is the race for our lives.

There Is a Finish Line

- Endurance requires that we learn to endure
- Sometimes there is no finish line in sight
- The finish line is different than what you think

SCRIPTURE ANCHOR

Philippians 1:6

He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:6

PASTORAL WORD

When You Are Weary

- **Waiting on a miracle**
- **Overwhelmed by the distance**
- **Let's run with endurance**

MAJOR POINT 3

Receive the Second Wind of the Spirit

**The Spirit gives power for the race
set before us.**

SCRIPTURE ANCHOR

Acts 1:8

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be my witnesses.

Acts 1:8

The Breath of God

- **By the first breath of God, we have life**
- **By the second wind of the Spirit, we have power**
- **Take a deep breath and receive**

SCRIPTURE ANCHOR

Press On

**I press on toward the goal for the prize
of the upward call of God in Christ
Jesus.**

Philippians 3:14

JESUS

More Than a Coach

He gives us the very energy we need to endure the race we are in.

MAJOR POINT 4

Lay Aside What Slows You Down

Let's rid ourselves of every obstacle and the sin that so easily entangles us

TRAINING SHIFT

From Donuts to Finish Line

- **Priority changed**
- **Training changed appetite**
- **Finishing the race became the focus**

Sin and Every Weight

- Mass
- Bulk
- Weight
- Burden
- Encumbrance

OBSTACLE

What Do Tumors Do?

They suck energy meant for a functional body and divert it toward something destructive.

APPLICATION

Remove What Drains Your Pursuit of Jesus

Even good things can become extra weight when they steal energy from the race.

MAJOR POINT 5

Run Surrounded by Witnesses

Therefore, since we also have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us

What Is a Witness?

- A witness in court
- Someone who gives testimony
- One who can attest to what they have seen

ENCOURAGEMENT

We Need Living Examples

- **Follow me as I follow Jesus**
- **Encourage one another**
- **Testify to what God has done**

ILLUSTRATION

Roger Bannister

- The first four-minute mile
- Voices said it was impossible
- Encouragement helped him run past the limit

CHURCH APPLICATION

Gathered for Encouragement

We encourage. We testify. We remind one another where the finish line is.

Hebrews 10:25

CLOSING

Run with Urgency

For such a time as this.

FINAL CALL

Racing to Win

- **Run the right race**
- **Run with endurance**
- **Receive the second wind of the Spirit**
- **Lay aside what slows you down**
- **Run surrounded by witnesses**
- **Become a witness for someone else**