

## Run The Race Of Endurance - Kimo Hoopai, October 6, 2024

Is a Bible metaphor that compares the Christian life to a race ,and is used to encourage believers to persevere through their faith for JESUS CHRIST.

Definition of endurance in the Bible is the ability to persevere through life's trials and challenges, while relying on God for strength and without wavering. Webster's says: The ability to continue or last , especially in the face of stress, fatigue ,or other adverse conditions. Physical race becomes a spiritual race when health issues arise, Financial issues, marriage issues, etc.... We all run an individual race and we all need Jesus Christ to help us with the encouragement of the word.

**1 Corinthians 9:24-27 NIV** *24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. 25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. 26 Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. 27 No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.*

Notes: Winning a race requires purpose and discipline. Paul uses this illustration to explain that the Christian life takes hard work, self-denial, and persistent preparation. As Christians, we are running toward our heavenly reward. The essentials of prayer, Bible study, and worship, along with numerous other spiritual disciplines, equip us to run with vigor and stamina. Don't merely observe from the grandstand; don't just turn out to jog a couple of laps each morning. Train diligently—your spiritual progress depends upon it.

**Acts 20:24 NIV** *However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.*

Notes: We often feel that life is a failure unless we're getting a lot out of it— recognition, fun, money, success. But Paul considered life worth nothing unless he used it to accomplish the work God had assigned to him. That is what he wanted to be known for. What is your identity built upon? Who are you in God's eyes? Humbly ask him to show you how he sees you.

**Galatians 5:7-8 NIV** *7 You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth? 8 That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you.*

**John 10:10 NIV** *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

**1 Timothy 4:7-8 NIV** *7 Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. 8 For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.*

Notes: Are you in shape both physically and spiritually? In our society, much emphasis is placed on physical fitness, but spiritual health (godliness) is even more important. Our physical health is susceptible to disease and injury, but faith can sustain us through any tragedy. To train ourselves to be godly, we must develop our faith by using our God-given abilities in the service of the church . We must also make a daily practice of reading our Bibles and meeting with other believers to strengthen one another in the faith.

**James 1:2-8 NIV** *2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who*

*gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. 6 But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That*

*person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. 8 Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.*

Hebrews 12:1-3 NIV *1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*

Notes: We can't really know the strength of our character until we see how we react under pressure. We may find that being kind to others is easier when everything is going well, but will we still be kind when others treat us unfairly? God wants to develop us into complete human beings, not simply insulate us from all pain.

Enduring through trials generates a whole person—seasoned, experienced, well developed, and fully trained. It gives us the life skills to see our blind spots and anticipate mistakes before we make them. Instead of complaining about our struggles, we should see them as opportunities for growth.

Notes: The Christian life involves focus and training. It requires us to give up whatever hinders or endangers our relationships with God and to run with stamina and commitment in the power of the Holy Spirit. We will stumble if we look away from him to worry about ourselves or look at the opposition, trials, or suffering facing us. We should be running solely for Christ, not our own glory or success, and we must always keep him in sight.

In closing: We all are running our race , each day we get closer to the prize which is our heavenly crown of eternal life with Jesus Christ. AMEN