



In life, Champions:

- Champions are not defined by wins and losses.
- Champions are made in successes and failures. Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! 1 Corinthians 9:24 (NLT)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. Hebrews 12:1 (NLT)

"Running to win" begins with:

- The commitment to rising above average.

Problems with average:

- No effort is required. ...make every effort to add integrity to your faith; and to integrity add knowledge; to knowledge add self-control; to self-control add endurance; to endurance add godliness; to godliness add Christian affection; and to Christian affection add love. If you have these qualities and they are increasing, it demonstrates that your knowledge about our Lord Jesus Christ is living and productive. If these qualities aren't present in your life, you're shortsighted and have forgotten that you were cleansed from your past sins. Therefore, brothers and sisters, use more effort to make God's calling and choosing of you secure. If you keep doing this, you will never fall away. 2 Peter 1:5-10 (GW)

- No effort demonstrates we don't care.

- No purpose is established. For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, rank after rank after rank of angels—everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him. Colossians 1:16 (MSG)
God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. John 3:17 (NLT)
He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. 2 Timothy 1:9 (NIV)

- No purpose means our lives have no reason.

- No disciplines are needed.

All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified. 1 Corinthians 9:25-27 (NLT)

Disciplines are positive habits that help us connect us to God and and build faith.

No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way. Hebrews 12:11 (NLT)

- No discipline demonstrates it's not important.

But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness... 1 Timothy 4:7 (NASB)

Understanding Disciplines:

- The Bible gives both personal and corporate disciplines.
- Disciplines are activities, not attitudes.
- Disciplines are practices taught in the Bible.
- Disciplines found in scripture are sufficient.
- Disciplines are a means to an end, not the goal.

The disciplines that keep us from average:

- Time with Jesus everyday.
- Giving my best.
- Living my purpose in adversity.

Have Questions? Text them to: (559)464-5754

Here are some questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- Who stood out in the Super Bowl as a champion? (Not because they won, but other qualities.)
- What does 1 Corinthians 9:24 mean when it says "run to win"?
- If our efforts don't get us to heaven, nor earn God's love, why is "effort" needed?
- Every player knows their purpose on the field (their assignment), Do you know your purpose in life? How much effort do you give to that purpose?
- What are some disciplines from the Bible that lead us to godliness? Why are disciplines important?
- Talk through understanding disciplines. Do you have any questions about what spiritual disciplines are?

Connection Group Leaders: Remind your group of the following announcements:
Business Meeting - Feb. 26th **Quest after Hours** - March 5th

For more Information, and other Talks, visit us at
www.faithisaquest.com/media/talks/