

You are in the lead!

(Heb 12:1 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.

In the New Testament our Christian life is seen as a race. You might feel like you are in a race every day with the hectic schedule you have. Before you stop reading because the thought of this makes you tired, there are a few things you must know about the race you are in. You need to know first that this race is being run on a course. It is not a cross country race where you find your own way! It is a course that is clearly defined.

Act 20:24 "But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.

Paul understood that he was running a race on a course. He was determined to finish that course and do it with joy.

(1Co 9:24 NASB) Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win.

In natural races you always are running against others. There might just be a few or very many such as in a marathon. It is important to know that in your spiritual life there is only **ONE** person running on the course, and it is just you. You are running on a unique course designed just for you! No one is running the exact course you are on. This course crosses unique territory that you are to experience. Each course has obstacles in it that must be dealt with in order to progress.

The last thing you need to know is how you win your race. **It is by FINISHING it!**

(2Ti 4:7 NASB) I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;

At the end of Paul's life he said that he finished his course. Paul won the race because he was the only one running on the course of his life! I have seen in the Olympics where a swimmer had to swim alone in a race because the other few people either bowed out or were disqualified. This swimmer had to compete by himself. The only way this swimmer could not win was that he quit! If he finished he won. **That takes all the pressure off when you understand that!**

Friend, you are running your course and there is no one else running it. **You will win your race by finishing it.** Many I know have stumbled and fallen and have made mistakes and got off course. Many have stopped running their race because of guilt, fear, or discouragement. Many look around at others and see how others seem to be running better than them and it makes them want to quit or stop running. There are some that have stopped and are just sitting down crying in self pity. I want to speak some words to you from your Heavenly Father- **GET UP! YOU ARE IN THE LEAD!** You are in the lead in your race. There is none ahead of you and none behind. GET UP and finish your race child of God! Paul was able to finish his course because he kept his faith. God is present in your life to give you the strength to run your race. Take time today to turn to God today and pour out your heart to Him. Listen to what He has to say to you. This will produce the faith that will keep you on the course and to finish it. His words to you will be the strength to run on. Do not give up and never quit because you are in the lead and you will win if you just finish! Jesus is waiting just on the other side of the finish line to hug you and tell you, "Well done my child!"

Prayer: Father, I thank you that you have designed a unique course for me and that I am the only one running on it. That gives me comfort. Lord I ask that you speak to me today your words that will provide me faith and strength to keep going. I am not going to quit. By your grace I will continue and finish this race. Lord, I thank you that you see me as a winner and that is what I am. I AM A WINNER in you! I will finish my course with joy! I love you!