

Drive For the Prize

The Christian life is a lot like a race. Consider 1 Corinthians 9:24-25.

“Do you not know that in a race all the drivers drive, but only one gets the prize? Drive in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the grand prix goes into strict training. They do it to get a trophy that will not last, but we do it to get a prize that will last forever.”

- Have you dedicated yourself to training in godliness? How can you improve your training?
- What is the prize that will last forever? Try to picture clearly how remarkable a prize this is.
- What does it mean to drive in such a way to get the prize?

Often, while racing, we are tempted only to look out for ourselves. Consider Philippians 2:3-4.

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”

- Why is humility so hard to achieve in our present age?
- What ways do you look to the interests of others?
- Does looking to the interests of others/humility conflict with driving in such a way to get the prize?

Just as a race car driver does not operate alone, but has an entire team working together, Christians are part of a team. Consider the following passages.

1 Corinthians 12:12, 27—Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ...Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Ephesians 4:16—From Christ the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

- A body has various parts that do different work. What part of the body of Christ are you?
- Do you ever wish you a different part? How can we grow content in our role? (see 1 Cor. 12:12-27)
- What is the overall work of the body of Christ? Do you see your role as contributing to that work?

Following the perfect example is always helpful. Consider Hebrews 12:1-3.

“Let us drive with perseverance the race marked out for us, 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. Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”

- What is the joy Jesus fixed His eyes on so as to endure the cross?
- How does fixing our eyes on Jesus help us to drive the race of faith?
- How does considering Jesus prevent us from losing heart?
- Have you lost heart before? How did you refocus your attention on Christ?
- How can you incorporate training, humility, and teamwork into fixing your eyes on Jesus so that you can successfully drive the race of faith?