

# Obstacles in the Race

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## I. Introduction.

- A. The Christian race is a marathon—there are hills and obstacles.
- B. There are lessons to be learned in advance for running.
- C. God has given us His Word in order to prepare.
- D. Not everyone finishes the race. The Bible tells it like it is.
- E. We can know potential pitfalls in advance.
- F. Text: II Timothy.
- G. No one ever finished the course accidentally. (John 4, Acts 20)

## II. Fear. (II Timothy 1)

- A. We must believe the promise. (II Timothy 1:7)
- B. We must surrender refusing to cling to anything. (Luke 14:33, Proverbs 16:6)

## III. False teaching. (II Timothy 2)

- A. We must be diligent in the Scripture.
- B. We have to study.
- C. We are obligated to check sermons. The only infallible teachers are the Word of God and the Holy Spirit.

## IV. Flesh. (II Timothy 3)

- A. The solution is separation.
- B. We must intentionally pray for the fruit of the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-23)

## V. Spiritual fatigue. (II Timothy 4)

- A. The solution is selection and priorities.
- B. Priorities.
  - 1. Personal relationship with Christ.
  - 2. The total well-being of the family.

3. The Great Commission.

4. Your career. (Luke 16:13)

**Application questions:**

1. Towards which spiritual pitfall do you find yourself most prone?

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2. Why is spiritual fatigue so dangerous?

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3. What fears do you have that has threatened your walk with God? How can you better find security in the midst of these?

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