

Run the Race with Patience

Skip Gray

I. Introduction. Text: Hebrews 12:1-2.

II. Running.

A. Running is one of the favorite expressions of the Christian faith because it brings to mind the idea of a long process moving toward something.

B. Life is not a spectator's sport.

C. We face obstacles such as confidence or fatigue.

D. Running pictures obedience. (Galatians 4:5)

1. We are to do what the Word of God says.

2. There are no unimportant decisions in the Christian life.

E. The real disciple will never suffer boredom or regret.

III. Patience.

A. We are to move through life with a calm endurance under pain or provocation.

B. Jesus is looking for cross-country runners who run with patience.

C. Jesus Christ does not worry. (Galatians 4:4-5)

D. There are no shortcuts. (Matthew 4)

IV. The race.

A. This is the course of life.

B. Circumstances.

1. God is in control. (Genesis 50:20)

2. We should not fear what man does to us. (Hebrews 13:6)

C. Objectives.

1. One of Jesus' objectives was to teach and train twelve men. (John 17:4; 19:30)

2. The objective of our life should be to pour into men—everything outside of people and God’s word will go up in smoke. (II Timothy 3:11, II Peter 3:11, Acts 16)

3. We are to share our lives with someone. (Luke 22:28)

4. Faith is based on the promises of God. (Acts 27)

Application questions:

1. Why is running a fitting image for the Christian life?

2. What does it look like to share one’s life with another practically?

3. How would you counsel someone who is afraid that he will never have a significant impact on another person?
