

# Running Into 2025

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Philippians 3:12-14

Hebrews 12:1-4; Acts 20:17-24



29 December 2024

**The Times We Live In** (Luke 21:34-36)

**Growing as a Disciple in 2025** - Six D's of Discipleship

- **D**ESIRE - A disciple has a **DESIRE** to grow and mature in their faith. (Luke 9:23; Heb 8:10-12) He/she has a real desire to please God. (Col 1:10; 1 Thess 4:1-2; 2 Tim 2:4; Heb 11:5; 1 John 3:22)
- **D**ETERMINATION - A disciple has a **DETERMINATION** to achieve his/her desire to grow. He/she makes a plan, commits to that plan, and implements that plan. (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)
- **D**ISCIPLINE - A disciple **DISCIPLINES** him/herself to keep to his/her plan no matter obstacles, challenges, distractions, troubles, or difficulties. He/she is **determined** to be like Christ and please his/her heavenly Father. ((Matthew 10:22; 24:13; Mark 13:13; Romans 12:12; Col 1:11; 23; 2 Timothy 2:12; Hebrews 12:1-2; James 1:12; 1 Cor 9:24-27)
- **D**ILIGENCE - A disciple is **DILIGENT** in “making every effort” and giving his/her all to growing as a disciple. He/she strives to give their BEST - not leftovers to God. (Deut 4:9; 6:7; 28:1; 2 Chron 34:33; Psalm 119:4; Proverbs 4:23; Romans 12:8, 11; 2 Tim 2:15; Heb 4:11; 6:11-12; 11:6; 2 Peter 2:5-12, 10; 3:14-18; 1 Cor 9:24-27)
- **D**ELIGHT- A disciple **DELIGHTS** in the Law of God, doing God's will, and the Sabbath. (Psalm 1:1-3; 40:6-8; 112:1; 119:16, 24, 35, 47, 70, 77, 92, 143, 174)
- **D**O - A disciple is a **DOER** of whatever God's Word **commands**. He/she **lives** his/her life “on every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.” (Deut 8:3; Matt 4:4; Luke 4:4; James 1:22; 1 John 2:3-4)

**Biblical Christianity Is a Doing “Religion”**

- ★ A disciple is saved by grace **unto** good works. (Ephesians 2:8-10)
- ★ A disciple's **genuineness** is measured NOT by what he says but what he DOES! (Matthew 7:21; 1 John 2:15-17; John 5:24-29; Romans 2:6-11)
- ★ A disciple's life consists of:
  - Striving - Luke 13:34; Colossians 1:29; Hebrews 12:4.

- Laboring - John 6:27
- Loving God with his whole heart, mind, strength, and soul **by** obeying God's commandments - John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10, 13-14; 1 John 2:3-4; 5:3
- Abounding in the work of the Lord - 1 Corinthians 15:58; Titus 2:14
- Diligently guarding his heart - Proverbs 4:23; Matt 12:34-35; 15:19
- Pursuing - love, holiness, righteousness, faith, patience, godliness, gentleness, peace, and edification - 1 Cor 14:1; Rom 14:19; 1 Tim 6:11; 2 Tim 2:22; Heb 12:14; 1 Thess 5:15; 1 Pet 3:11-12; Prov. 15:9; 21:21
- Meditating on God's Word/Law - Psalm 1:1-3; 119:97; 1 Timothy 4:15
- Pursuing perfection - Philippians 3:13-14
- Constantly pressing forward - Philippians 3:12-14
- Practicing righteousness - 1 John 2:29-3:10
- Exercising in godliness - 1 Timothy 4:7-9
- Being an example to other believers - 1 Timothy 4:12; 1 Cor 11:1
- Continuous repentance - Luke 13:1-5; Acts 17:31; 2 Cor 7:1; 1 John 3:3
- Serving God and others - being a slave to both - Matthew 20:26-28; 1 Cor 6:19-20; Galatians 1:10; Colossians 3:22-24; Romans 6:22; 12:11.
- Praying *always* - Luke 18:1; 1 Thess 5:17; Colossians 4:2; 1 Peter 4:7
- Diligent study of God's Word - 2 Timothy 2:15
- Diligently seeking the Lord - Hebrews 11:6
- Growing in knowledge - 2 Peter 3:18; 2 Peter 1:5-8; Colossians 1:9-11
- Diligently adding to his faith - virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and sacrificial love - 2 Peter 1:5-10.
- Running a race - Hebrews 12:1-2; 1 Cor 9:24-27; Acts 20:24; 2 Tim 4:7
- Enduring hardships - John 16:33; Acts 14:22; 2 Tim 2:3-4; 4:5
- Constant prayer - Romans 12:12; Col 4:2, 12; Luke 18:1; 1 Peter 4:7
- Being an example to other believers in word, conduct, love, spirit, faith, and purity - 1 Timothy 4:12; 1 Corinthians 11:1.
- Using his God-given grace and gift within a local church - 1 Peter 4:10-11; 1 Corinthians 12:1-27; Ephesians 4:1-16
- Eating and drinking Christ - John 6:53-58; 7:37-38
- Walking in the Spirit - Eph 5:18; Gal 5:16, 25; 6:8; Romans 8:1, 4-5, 11, 24
- Walking blameless before the Lord - Genesis 17:1; 2 Peter 3:14; Matthew 5:48; 7:15; 16:6-12; 1 John 2:6; Col 2:6; 1 Peter 3:17
- Walking circumspectly in this evil world - Ephesians 5:15-17
- Redeeming the time that God gives us - Ephesians 5:16
- Being on guard constantly - 2 John 8; Col 2:4, 8; Matt 24:4-5, 11, 24

## **ARE YOU A DISCIPLE of CHRIST?**

(Luke 9:23; 14:25-33)

## The Christian Life Is a Disciplined Life

- There is no such thing in the NT as a PASSIVE CHRISTIAN.
- There is no such thing as a LONE Christian.
- There is no such thing in the NT as a CHRISTIAN LIVING in SIN.
  - Sin is LAWLESSNESS. (1 John 3:4)
  - Sin is ignoring the commandments of God.
  - Sin is making excuses for disobedience.
  - Sin is saying, "I know what You say in Your Word but I choose to obey other voices instead."
  - God's grace teaches disciples to say no to ungodliness.(Titus 2:12)
  - Those who BELIEVE OBEY. (John 10:27-29; James 1:22; Luke 6:46)
  - **Disciples DO NOT sin.** (1 John 3:4-10)
  - Disciples **DO NOT** ignore God's Word nor do they make excuses for their disobedience!

## The Christian Life Is a Race (Hebrews 12:1-4; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27)

- It is a **race**. (Hebrews 12:1-4; Acts 20:24; 2 Timothy 4:7; Philippians 3:13-15)
- It is not an **easy** race. (Matthew 7:13-14; John 16:33; Acts 14:22)
- It is an **appointed** race. (Hebrews 12:2; Psalm 139:16)
- It is a race marked out by God's commandments. (Psalm 119:32; 35; Isaiah 48:17-18)
- It is a race that we are to run **to win**. (1 Corinthians 9:24-25)
- It is a race that requires **strict training**. (1 Cor. 9:24-25; 1 Cor. 6:12; Heb. 12:1)
- It requires a **special** and **strict diet**. (Deut. 8:3; Matt. 4:4; 7:21-2; Luke 11:27-28; 1 Peter 2:2; Hebrews 5:12-14)
- It requires **hard exercise**. (1 Timothy 4:8-9; Hebrews 12:14; 5:14)
- It is a race that must be run with **endurance**. (Hebrews 10:36; 12:1; 6:12; Matt. 10:22; 24:13; Romans 2:7; 1 Corinthians 15:58; Colossians 1:23)
- It is a race that must be ran according to the **rules**. (2 Timothy 2:5)
- It is a race from which one may be **disqualified**, therefore, true runners are **disciplined** in their quest to win the crown. (1 Cor 9:24-27; 2 Cor 13:5)
- It is a race that is full of **tests** and **temptations**: to quit, to not run, to cheat, not to be disciplined, not to endure. (James 1:12; Matthew 6:13; 26:41)
- **ONLY THOSE WHO FINISH RECEIVE the REWARD!** (Matthew 24:13)

## Paul's Example (Acts 20:17-24; Philippians 3:13-14)

- We are **commanded** to follow Paul's example. (1 Corinthians 11:1)
  - (1 John 2:6) We are to walk as Christ walked.
  - God gave us Paul, a man, to imitate.
- Paul's single focus:
  - He lived to serve the Lord. He lived as a bond servant! (Acts 20:19)
    - A bond servant does what the Master says.

- A bond servant surrenders his rights.
- A bond servant surrenders all his possessions. Consider Job 1:21; 2:10; Luke 14:33
- A bond servant has no status. His Master must increase and he must decrease. (John 3:30; Philippians 2:5-8)
- A bond servant understands his life is not his own. (1 Cor 6:19-20)
- He lived in the moment and trusted God with the future.
  - NOTICE the words, “**ONE THING I DO.**” (Philippians 3:13)
- He knew that tribulations and persecutions were part of being a Christian.
  - BUT he gloried in them. (Romans 5:1-4) See the trials of Paul’s life - 2 Corinthians 11:23-28.
- He lived “with all humility” - the lowliness of mind.
  - Ephesians 3:8; 1 Timothy 1:15; 1 Corinthians 15:9-10
- Paul taught and lived endurance. Paul lived to finish his race and win it! (Acts 20:24)
- Paul testified of the Lord ALWAYS - publicly and house to house. (Acts 20:20-21) His preaching was SERIOUS - see definition of the word “to testify”.
- Paul kept NOTHING back - He taught the WHOLE counsel of God. He was innocent of blood. Paul was a WORKMAN in the Word of God. (2 Timothy 2:15)
- NOTHING moved Paul except the will of God. (Acts 20:24)
- Paul understood that his life was not his own. (Acts 20:24)
- Paul lived LUKE 9:23.

## Pressing Into 2025

- 2024 is behind us - let us press forward. (Philippians 3:12-14)
- Run TOGETHER. Christians do not “run” by themselves. They **need** each other.
- Set goals. Don’t accept a low standard. Don’t be complacent, lazy, or sluggish - see Hebrews 6:11-12. Accept God’s standard: **PERFECTION!**
- Run the race to win – give our all - nothing less. (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)
- To win we must discipline ourselves. Consider Hebrews 3:12-13.
  - Encourage and Exhort each other.
- Our diet must be the right diet - the Word of God - milk and solid meat. (1 Peter 2:2; Hebrews 5:14)
- Look to Jesus - the Man - Hebrews 12:2.
- Lighten our loads - those things that easily ensnare us - **busyness, laziness, complacency, excuses**. Set priorities and live those priorities.
- Refusal to quit. (Matthew 10:22; 24:13; Romans 2:7; Galatians 6:9; Hebrews 6:11-12) Running, especially in the beginning, will cause pain but pain is part of the running.
- Gather TOGETHER MORE as we see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:25)