



UNSTOPPABLE

1 Corinthians 9:24 *24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. 25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. 26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. 27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.*

We are surely in a race, and as surely as we are in a race, we are not just running the last lap, but we are coming around the bend and headed towards the finish line. Now, is truly the season to run like you have never run before. Oh, I know you have been running and you have been running hard. It's been an endurance race, a marathon, and some of you have been running quite awhile. Maybe you've been feeling weary, maybe you've fallen into a normal day to day rhythm, but, I say to you, NOW, is the time to pick up the pace! Run in such a way that you might obtain the prize! And what is the prize? We are running for an imperishable crown! The money, the house, the cars, the stuff, the honour or praise of men - at the end of the day, if that is what we are running for - it perishes away! It's not about what feels good, looks good, sounds good according to this world's system, but it is about when I come face to face with Jesus and the reward that awaits!

These verses say that the one "who competes for the prize is temperate in all things." Temperate is defined as having temperatures that are not too hot or too cold; emotionally calm and controlled, and avoiding behaviour that goes beyond what is normal, healthy or acceptable. When a horse is ready to run, he is full of power; however, that power is restrained, and ready to be unleashed at the master's touch. The horse has every muscle twitching and is on high alert, waiting for the slightest move and signal to run. We have to restrain ourselves, discipline ourselves, not lacking in energy or drive, but being fueled by a spiritual energy, and our fleshly desires crucified.

Not only do we discipline ourselves and bring our bodies under subjection, but we have to know that we can be disqualified, according to verse 27. This is not just about how we run the race, but its about how we finish the race. The moment we think we can't be taken out, we are deceived. We have all heard the stories - those who once taught truth and are now teaching deception, those who have had the ministry of preaching to others, caught falling in sin themselves. We have to run faithfully, and we have to finish well - finishing well, pointing men to Jesus in all that we do! We can't take glory or praise for ourselves or try to point men to ourselves. No, point them to Jesus! Glorify Jesus! Lift up Jesus - with all that you do and all that you say! It is the faithful believers who are going to inherit that imperishable crown! We do not run with uncertainty, but we run with clarity and purpose! To lift up Jesus, that He might draw all men unto Himself, and that we who have pointed the way, would hear "well done thou good and faithful servant."



Make no mistake, there are going to be hurdles to overcome in this race! Matthew 24:3-14 talks about some of those hurdles, some of the signs of the beginning of sorrows and the end of the age. The obstacles facing the end-time Church in this season are: deception, distraction, persecution, offense, betrayal, and the love and hearts of many waxing cold (apostasy). I say to you, look up, look around and see the signs of the times, hear the charge that the Lord is giving to you, just as Paul charged Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:1-5:

1 I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. 5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Here it is from the [Message Bible](#):

"I can't impress this on you too strongly! God is looking over your shoulder. Christ Himself is the final say on everyone, living and dead. He is about to break into the open his rule, so proclaim the Message with intensity; keep your watch. Challenge, warn, and urge people! Don't ever quite! Just keep it simple. You're going to find that there will be times when people will have no stomach for solid teaching, but will fill up on spiritual junk food - catchy opinions that tickle their fancy. They'll turn their backs on truth and chase mirages. But you - keep your eye on what you're doing; accept the hard times with the good; keep the Message alive; do a thorough job as God's servant."

There is a great cloud of witnesses cheering us on as we run this race (Hebrews 12: 1-17). Let's lay aside every weight and run with endurance! Let's endure chastening, hostility and persecution like soldiers of Jesus Christ! This is a time for us not just to finish the race, but to finish well! My heart and my prayer for you in this season is that you will not just know the will of God, but that you would press into following Him like never before, picking up the pace, empowered by His grace!

May the Lord richly bless you and may you fulfill, bring to completion, carry out as required, pledged and expected your ministry in Christ Jesus!