



Running to Win: Faith That Endures

Texts: 1 Corinthians 9:24–27; James 1:2–4; Psalm 42:5

Opening Question (Icebreaker)

If you trained your whole life for one Olympic event, what would it be—and why?

1. Running with Purpose

In **First Corinthians 9:24–27**, Paul compares the Christian life to an athletic competition.

- What does “not running aimlessly” look like in real life?
- Where might you be tempted to drift spiritually rather than live intentionally?

Application: What is one practical way you can train spiritually this week (prayer, Scripture, self-control, accountability)?

2. The Joy — and Danger — of Victory

The sermon reminded us that victory is a gift, but a dangerous foundation.

- Why can success sometimes pull us away from dependence on God?
- What helps keep your heart grounded during seasons of blessing?

Reflection: How can we celebrate victories while keeping Christ—not success—at the center?

3. The Weight of Disappointment

Disappointment whispers lies: *You’re not good enough. You failed. God let you down.*

In **Psalm 42:5**, the psalmist speaks truth to his own soul.

- What disappointments have tested your faith?
- Which lies are you most tempted to believe when things don’t go as planned?
- What does it look like to “put your hope in God” in the middle of discouragement?

Encouragement: Share one way God has remained faithful in a hard season.

4. The Transforming Power of Perseverance

In **Epistle of James 1:2–4**, we’re told that trials develop perseverance—and perseverance leads to maturity.

- How have trials shaped your character?
- Where might God be more focused on who you are becoming than what you are achieving?

5. Staying in the Race

The sermon ended with this reminder: *God is not asking you to win every race—but He is asking you to stay in it.* Discuss what “staying in the race” would look like this week?

Take time to Pray