

Spiritual Olympics

Series: "Freedom in Christ," Part 1 of 4

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

The Apostle Paul as a Sports Fan. _____

The Christian Life as a Marathon. _____

(1 Cor 9:24-27 NIV) *Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. {25} Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. {26} Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. {27} No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.*

The first Marathon was run in the year _____ in Athens.

Pheidippides allegedly ran _____ miles from Athens to Sparta and back.

He then ran _____ miles from Marathon to Athens, shouted "Rejoice, we conquer!" and then _____.

FIVE WAYS THAT THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS LIKE A MARATHON

1. Both Require _____.

(1 Cor 9:25a NIV) *Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training.*

(1 Cor 9:27a NIV) *No, I beat my body and make it my slave. . .*

Agonizomai = _____.

Most people, including many Christians, are . . . slaves to their bodies. Their bodies tell their minds what to do. Their bodies decide when to eat, what to eat, how much to eat, when to sleep and get up, and so on. An athlete cannot allow that. He follows the training rules, not his body. He runs when he would rather be resting, he eats a balanced meal when he would rather have a chocolate sundae, he goes to bed when he would rather stay up, and he gets up early to train when he would rather stay in bed. An athlete leads his body, he does not follow it. It is his slave, not the other way around.

—John MacArthur

a. Training in the _____.
(Heb 5:14 NASB) *But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.*

Gumnadzo = _____

b. Training in _____ (Daniel 5).

c. Training in _____ and _____.
(Heb 12:11 NIV) *No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.*

d. Training in _____.
(1 Tim 4:8 NIV) *For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.*

2. Both Demand a _____ Strategy.

(1 Cor 9:26 NIV) *Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air.*

(Heb 12:1 NIV) . . . *let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.*

3. Both Necessitate Extraordinary _____.

(James 1:12 NIV) *Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.*

4. Both Require _____ by the _____.

(2 Tim 2:5 NIV) *Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules.*

5. Both Yield a Coveted _____.

(1 Cor 9:25 NIV) *Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.*

"Run in Such a Way as to Get the Prize." _____

How Do I Join the Race? _____

[Pastor Mark thanks Mike Andrus for help with today's sermon].