



It's Time to RUN!

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As Christians we are called to walk with God, to walk by faith, to walk in the light, to walk in Truth...etc. I think most Christians have made it into a stroll...mosey...or even a stand-around-and-watch.

BELOVED: The thing with walking is that it is dealing with a constant, everyday thing. Keep moving... don't stop!

LAST SUNDAY: God revealed something to us, during worship...to keep running...running towards Him. Aggressively and with passion...just keep running! I even feel like He was saying, "Pick up the pace!"

RUNNING IS IMPORTANT for a couple reasons:

- a.) Gets you in shape...develops discipline...preparation.
- b.) Moves you faster (gets distance covered quicker).

Hebrews 12:1 – "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and **let us run with patience the race that is set before us.**"

BELOVED: There is a time for everything (Ecclesiastes 3:1)...

- * A time to stand
- * A time to walk (always walk)
- * A time to run!

Do NOT walk when it is time to RUN!

I am a sports nut...so I do know that in a LONG DISTANCE race, for most of the race, it is a steady, constant pace...but as you approach the end—you gotta pick up the pace...run harder...run as fast as you can...you GOTTA FINISH.

In JOEL we are told that God's end time army will RUN...not walk!

BELOVED: It is time that we cover some ground. Get some things done!

ILLUSTRATION: The movie "Forrest Gump"...there is scene at the beginning of the movie where Forrest has been bogged down by the braces on his legs.

Apparently, his back was as crooked as a politician...they put braces on his legs to strengthen his back, kept his legs from bending, etc....he spend most of his time standing or barely walking.

HOWEVER: When the bullies started making fun of him and throwing rocks at him, Jenny told him it was time to run..."Run, Forrest, Run!"

As soon as he started RUNNING...his limitations were BROKEN and from that day forward, if he was going somewhere, "HE WAS RUNNING."

I felt the Spirit saying to us, "There are some limits that you have hit...limitations that you have dealt with...that have even plagued you. You have tried a lot of things, but today it is time to run! Running will break off those limitations the same way those leg braces broke off Forrest."

TO RUN presents as an AGGRESSION towards, a PASSION or DESIRE to do something!
It is a WILLINGNESS to push through “uncomfortable” to reach a goal (the finish line).

GO AHEAD and MENTION 1 Corinthians 9 (run to receive the prize).

James 1:12 – ***Blessed is the man that endureth temptation:*** for when he is tried (tempted, tested or tried), ***he shall receive the crown of life***, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.”

- a.) **“endure temptation”** – push through uncomfortable.
2 Timothy 2:1-5 (perhaps read) – gotta follow the rules
 Vs. 3 – “Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.”
2 Thessalonians 1:4 – “So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:”
 The reason they REJOICE? Not because they are going through trials (those really stink to watch as a pastor), but the fact that you are fighting...running...going to receive the prize!
- b.) You SHALL receive the crown of life.
 That is the VICTORS crown of ETERNAL LIFE! Winning the race!
 Yes...that is an eternal crown. Sure!
 However, it is also a victors crown on this earth. A reward, a blessing, a result...that is what James is talking about, not JUST getting to heaven.
John 10:10 – “I have come that you might have life and abundance”...on this earth.

NOTE: James 1:13,14 – No man is tempted, tested or tried by God...but by their own flesh.

NOTE: Often we think we are competing against others...Christians or even non-Christians...which is a BIG mistake.

We are not running to beat everyone else...we are running to beat:

- a.) Sure the enemy...the thief...the devil...absolutely.
Ephesians 6:12 – “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”
- b.) I believe (according to James 1:13,14) we (the real us)...OUR SPIRIT is battling to defeat our flesh (see Romans 8).

Where Do We Run?

In Scripture I have seen a couple places that it is important for us to run...***places that need to be our goal in 2026***...and forward!

1.) Run to God and His Word!

Psalm 91:1 calls it the secret place.
 Don't walk to it...run to it!
 The song, “Running”...that is our goal.

Proverbs 18:10 – “The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.”

Isaiah 40:31 – “But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”

NOTICE: You cannot effectively RUN anywhere else...until you have been in this place.

Luke 19:2-4

- 2 And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich.
- 3 And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature.

Luke 19:2-4

2 And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich.
3 And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature.
4 And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycomore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way.

NOTICE: He ran to a place that He could see Jesus...it changed his life forever!

1 Samuel 3:4,5

4 That the LORD called Samuel: and he answered, Here am I.
5 And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down.

NOTICE: When Samuel heard God's voice...He ran! He became a man who became very sensitive to that Voice!

Was used by God time and time again...to save the nation...all because he ran to the voice!

ILLUSTRATION: The account of Jonah in Scripture. When God called him to do something...he RAN away from God...away from the CALL...it really brought the pressure on him.

NOTE: Perhaps you are a person who has spent their time running from God...from His Word... you may feel that you are SO FAR FROM where you know God wanted you to be.

I mean, Jonah would have felt like he couldn't be further.

HOWEVER: The very thing that made him feel that way...was the thing God used to save a city.

THINK ABOUT IT: Jonah didn't do anything powerful...no miracles...not really even passionate preaching. But the whole city repented because of a half hearted message (and obedience). Why?

One of the main things is that they worshiped a "fish god" who had supposedly come up on land and did many charitable works...so when a man comes up to them after being SPIT OUT OF A BIG FISH...they listened.

God isn't behind your running away...but He is attentive to your yes.

Habakkuk 2:2 – "Then the LORD answered me and said, "Write down the vision And inscribe it clearly on tablets, So that one who reads it may run."

Proverbs 29:18 – "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."

YES vision can mean the vision...but it is also talking about what God has said...the Word.

NOTICE: Where people have not RUN TO THE WORD...they will "perish"...which means they will "cast off restraint" or "run unrestrained". Yep, they will run after a lot of wrong things.

2 Kings 5:20,21 – Gehazi ran after Naaman to get money and increase.

Psalm 119:32 – "I shall run the way of Your commandments, For You will enlarge my heart."

When you are RUNNING to His Word and in obedience to His Word...you will run faster, longer... more effectively.

ONE THING I FIND INTERESTING: The Rich Young Ruler RAN to Jesus...walked away sad! He didn't want to do what Jesus said...what the Word said!

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? **Run in such a way that you may win.**

RUN TO HIM...RUN ACCORDING TO HIS WORD!

25 Everyone who **competes in the games exercises self-control in all things**. So they do it to obtain a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.

NOTICE: We see the discipline of RUNNING. Consistency of running! To enlarge your heart!

26 Therefore I run in such a way as not to run aimlessly; I box in such a way, as to avoid hitting air;

AGAIN: RUN TO HIM...RUN ACCORDING TO HIS WORD.

27 but I strictly discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

BELOVED: It is not important for just some of us to RUN...but for all of us to run together!

BELOVED: The enemy wants to get you so busy with everything else...get you tired doing less important things...distracted with unimportant things...he wants to get you TO STOP RUNNING!

2 Timothy 4:7 – Paul said, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;”

Galatians 5:7 – “Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?”

The church at Galatia had been doing right...RUNNING THE RACE, living according to the Word.

Galatians 3:3 – “Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?”

HOWEVER: Someone came along and began deceiving them...mis-leading them and they quit obeying the Word of God. He is sending this letter to get them back to the QUIET PLACE...get them running again!

2.) Run to SERVE!

BELOVED: This is a covenant issue...honoring others above yourself.

1 Samuel 17:17-22

17 And Jesse said unto David his son, Take now for thy brethren an ephah of this parched corn, and these ten loaves, and run to the camp to thy brethren;

20 And David rose up early in the morning, and left the sheep with a keeper, and took, and went, as Jesse had commanded him; and he came to the trench, as the host was going forth to the fight, and shouted for the battle.

21 For Israel and the Philistines had put the battle in array, army against army.

22 And David left his carriage in the hand of the keeper of the carriage, and ran into the army, and came and saluted his brethren.

NOTICE: David was watching his sheep...obedient. He responded to his father's directions (no wonder he learned to enquire of the Lord).

His father said RUN...vs. 20 said he did as his father commanded...he ran!

NOTICE: He didn't run there to fight in a war...he didn't run there to liberate Israel...**HE RAN THERE TO SERVE HIS BROTHERS.**

Vs. 22 – “**saluted**” – to demand shalom! He showed up on the battlefield to encourage his brothers...to give them food...that was it!

Vs. 22 – “**saluted**” – to demand shalom! He showed up on the battlefield to encourage his brothers...to give them food...that was it!

Before David ever took down the GIANT or took ground...he took food! He served! It was in the midst of SERVING that his promotion came.

Way too many Christian refuse to serve others...to serve others in the Kingdom of God. They are waiting for everyone to serve them.

You will never be PROMOTED in the Kingdom of God until you learn to serve...RUN TO IT!

3.) Run to Spoil the Enemy!

BELOVED: Let him who stole...steal no more (Ephesians 4:28).

It is time that we take a stand and aggressively go after the enemy.

Psalm 18:28-30 (song from when he was delivered from Saul)

28 For thou wilt light my candle: the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness.

29 **For by thee I have run through a troop; and by my God have I leaped over a wall.**

30 As for God, his way is perfect: **the word of the LORD is tried:** he is a buckler to all those that trust in him.

1 Samuel 17:48-51

47 And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands.

48 And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came and drew nigh to meet David, that David hasted, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.

49 And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth.

50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David.

51 Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled.

BELOVED: Nothing that David did on the battlefield was passive...was a leisurely stroll...he ran! Ran to the battle...ran to spoil the enemy.

Often we can be timid (not been given the spirit of fear—timidity) about spiritual warfare...but that is why God has given to us His armor (Ephesians 6:10). So we can be strong in faith.

When you've run to the Word (Him)...you will NOT be afraid of the enemy.

WE MUST RUN to take ground for the Kingdom of God. Take back what the enemy has stolen.

Matthew 11:12 – “And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.”

The FORCE of FAITH!

REMEMBER: Faith comes by RUNNING to the Word! The more you RUN TO THE WORD...the stronger you become to leap over the enemies walls and take ground for the Kingdom of God!

BELOVED: We must be aggressive by faith. Aggressive in the Word.

It's time for the KICK!

YOU MAY SAY: How do I spoil the enemy? How do I steal from the enemy?

BELOVED: Let me show you a sure fire way to run!

Matthew 28:5-8

- 5 And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.
- 6 He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.
- 7 **And go quickly**, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.
- 8 And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and **did run to bring his disciples word**.

NOTICE: The angel said GO QUICKLY and tell them he is risen!

In John 4 it tells of the woman at the well...Jesus ministered to her...changed her life...what did she do?

John 4:28 – “The woman then left her water pot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men...”

NOTICE: She dropped everything...it doesn't specifically say she ran, but the context tells a story of a woman who COULDN'T WAIT to share the Good News!

BELOVED: If you want to spoil the enemy...RUN, don't walk, to tell your friends and family about Jesus.

Conclusion

BELOVED: Don't be caught standing around. It is time to RUN the race that is in front of us.

Hebrews 12:1 – “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us**, and **let us run with patience the race that is set before us.**”

It is time for us to lay aside the things that are weighing us down...sins, busyness, etc. AND RUN!