

Successful Living And Three Simple But Not Easy Steps
Cornerstone Church of Poway
Rich Sherwood – Youth Director
September 5, 2021

“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. 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. Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.”

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 NIV

Step 1. Pick your race.

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Ephesians 2:10 NIV

God has uniquely designed each of us with skills abilities likes and dislikes.

Notes: _____

Step 2. Get a coach.

“Let the wise hear and increase in learning and the one who understands obtain guidance.”

Proverbs 1:5 NIV

“Listen to advice and accept discipline, and at the end you will be counted among the wise.”

Proverbs 19:20 NIV

Notes: _____

Step 3. Build a team.

“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves.”

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, 12 NIV

“A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.”

Notes: _____

Next steps:

- [] Decide what good works God has called you to do.
- [] Decide who might be a good coach in your life.
- [] Join a team who will help encourage you.

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Going Deeper:

“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. 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. Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.”

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 NIV

What is the difference between the two crowns in these verses?

What does Paul mean when he says, “do not run aimlessly”?

Read Ephesians 2:10

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

If God prepared good works for you to do, what are some examples of those works? They should be specific to you.

Read Proverbs 19:20

“Listen to advice and accept discipline, and at the end you will be counted among the wise.”

Why is it sometimes hard to listen to advice?

Who are the people in your life who you believe have wise advice?

Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, 12

“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves.”

“A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.”

Make a list of your closest friends.

Do the people you listed above have the desire and ability to help you press on to fulfill the plans God has for you?

Close in prayer:
