

# Run to Win

## Philippians 3:12-16

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. <sup>13</sup> Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. <sup>16</sup> Only let us live up to what we have already attained.<sup>1</sup>

To many people, the idea of running brings to mind jogging on a treadmill. You go nowhere and fast. When the apostle Paul compares the Christian life to a race, he has something else in mind. He says that we are to run hard towards the goal of spiritual maturity. If we want to win the race, we need to build the following components into our training regimen.

### **Dissatisfaction (12-13a)**

*The goal is progress, not perfection*

### **Devotion (13b)**

*Live with intentionality*

### **Direction (13c)**

*Practice the art of planned neglect*

### **Determination (14)**

*Keep your eyes on the prize*

### **Discipline (15-16)**

*Develop a plan for spiritual growth*

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<sup>1</sup> *The Holy Bible: New International Version*. 1996, c1984 (electronic ed.). Grand Rapids: Zondervan.