

DARING TO GIVE GOD MY BEST

2 Peter 1:5-8; Proverbs 3:9-10 (July 7, 2024)

...and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Proverbs 3:9-10 (CEV)

9 Honor the LORD by giving him your money and the first part of all your crops.

10 Then you will have more grain and grapes than you will ever need.

HOW DO I GIVE MY BEST TO GOD?

A Soldier, an Athlete, a Farmer

“Endure hardship with us like a GOOD soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets tied up in civilian affairs—he wants to please his commanding officer. Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor’s crown unless he competes according to the rules. And the hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. Think about these three illustrations, and the Lord will help you to understand how they apply to you.” 2 Timothy 2:3-7 (NIV/LB)

LESSONS FROM THE MILITARY LIKE AN EFFECTIVE SOLDIER, I MUST...

1. DEFINE WHAT I'D DIE FOR

“The greatest love is shown when a person lays down his life for his friends.” John 15:13 (LB)

2. SACRIFICE MY COMFORT

“Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.” 2 Timothy 2:3

“Live a life of sacrificial love just like Christ loved us and gave himself as an offering and sacrifice for us.” Ephesians 5:2

3. ELIMINATE DISTRACTIONS

“As Christ’s soldier, do not let yourself become entangled in the affairs of this life, wasting time, for then you can’t please your commanding officer who enlisted you in his army.” 2 Timothy 2:4 (NIV/NLT)

LESSONS FROM SPORTS

“In a race everyone runs, but only one person wins the prize. So run your race to win. TO WIN the contest YOU MUST deny yourselves many things that would keep you from doing your best. An athlete goes to all this trouble just to win a ribbon or medal that won’t last, but we do it for an eternal reward that will last forever! So I run straight to the goal with purpose in every step. I fight to win. I’m not just shadow-boxing or playing around. Like an athlete I discipline myself, making sacrifices and training my body to do what it should, not what it wants to do. Otherwise I fear I might be disqualified from the race.” 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (LB/NCV)

TO WIN THE PRIZE, I MUST...

1. INTEND TO WIN

“In a race everyone runs, but only one person wins the prize. So run your race to win!” 1 Corinthians 9:24 (LB)

“Run your best in the race of faith, and win eternal life for yourself; for this is the life that God called you to when you professed your faith before many witnesses.” 1 Timothy 6:12 (TEV)

2. DISCIPLINE MYSELF

“If anyone competes as an athlete, he cannot receive the victor’s crown unless he competes according to the rules.” 2 Timothy 2:5 (NAS)

“To win the contest you must deny yourself many things that would keep you from doing your best. An athlete goes into strict training just to win a ribbon or medal that won’t last, but we do it for an eternal reward that will last forever! ...So I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should.” 1 Corinthians 9:25, 27 (LB/NLT)

3. STAY FOCUSED

“I run straight to the goal with purpose in every step! I fight to win. I’m not just shadow-boxing or playing around.” 1 Corinthians 9:26 (LB)

Jesus: “The Kingdom of Heaven is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field.” Matthew 13:24 (NLT)

LESSONS FROM FARMING

“**Remember** this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each make up your own mind as to how much you should give. Don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves the person who gives cheerfully. Then God will generously provide all you need, and you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others... For God is the one who gives seed to the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will give you many opportunities to do good, and he will produce a great harvest of generosity in you! Yes, you will be enriched SO THAT you can give even more generously! ...You will be glorifying God through your generous gifts, AND your generosity will prove you are obedient to the Good News of Christ!” 2 Corinthians 9:6-13 (NLT)

TO REAP A GREAT HARVEST, I MUST... PLANT GENEROUSLY IN FAITH

2 PROMISES OF JESUS

“Give, and it will be given back to you. You will be given much. It will be poured into your hands—more than you can hold. You will be given so much that it will spill into your lap. The way you give to others is the way God will give to you.” Luke 6:38 (ICB)

“Jesus said, ‘I guarantee you this: Anyone who gives up anything for my sake and the Good News—whether a home or a family member or property—will get MORE THAN THAT BACK, multiplied a hundredfold, and in the world to come they will be given life forever!’” Mark 10:29-30

I AM INTERESTED IN TAKING A CLASS FOR MY SPIRITUAL GROWTH.

- Membership 101
- Maturity 201
- Ministry 301
- Mission/Evangelism 401

OTHER CLASSES

- Foundations for basic Christian doctrines
- Fresh Start for starting my faith in Christ
- How to do daily Quiet Time with God

NEED TO TALK TO A PASTOR?

- I would like to talk with a pastor to understand the biblical view on a subject.
- I would like to know what it means to be a member of MBF (NVCCC)

ANY OTHER QUESTION? LET US KNOW, PLEASE.

Questions for discussion

1. What’s most important to you now?
2. Does that (the answer from Q1) have eternal value?
3. If not (if it’s only temporary), then what’s your reason to consider it as being most important to you?
4. If it does have eternal value, then what are some of distractions that I am facing in pursuing it actively?
5. Do you think spiritual life (living God’s purpose) is worthy of running to win?
6. What do I do to stay focused in my relationship with God?
7. What do I need to plant this week to harvest God’s blessing later?