

Live Your Calling: What On Earth Am I Here For? (Part 4)

You Are Called to Become

"We know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are CALLED according to his PURPOSE FOR THEM. For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them TO BECOME LIKE HIS SON, so that his Son would be the firstborn, with many brothers and sisters." —Romans 8:28-29 (NLT)

MY THIRD LIFE CALLING: is to become like Christ

HOW DO I BECOME WHAT GOD CALLS ME TO BE? Running Your Marathon to Maturity: —Hebrews 12

1. Simplify my life

"Let us strip off anything that slows us down or holds us back, and especially those sins that wrap themselves so tightly around our feet and trip us up; and let us run with patience the PARTICULAR RACE that God has set before us." —Hebrews 12:1 (LB)

2. Don't get impatient or in a hurry

"... Let us run with patience the particular race that God has set before us." —Hebrews 12:1b (LB)

3. Spend time focusing on Jesus every day

"We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from start to finish." —Hebrews 12:2a (NLT)

"All of us have had that veil removed so that we can be mirrors that brightly reflect the glory of the Lord. And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, WE BECOME more and more like him and reflect his glory even more." —2 Corinthians 3:18 (NLT)

4. When it gets hard, remember the reward

"Jesus did not give up because of the cross! On the contrary, because of the joy that was waiting for him, he thought nothing of the disgrace of dying on the cross, and he is now seated at the right side of God's throne. Think of what he went through; how he put up with so much hatred from sinners! So do not let yourselves become discouraged and give up." —Hebrews 12:2-3 (TEV)

"After you suffer for a short time, God, who gives all grace, will make everything right. He will make you strong and support you and keep you from falling. HE CALLED YOU to share in his glory in Christ, a glory that will continue forever." —1 Peter 5:10 (NCV)

MEMORY VERSE

"In ALL things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." —Romans 8:28

5. Gather a team to run with me

"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another as you see the Day approaching." —Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)

6. Remember God is cheering me at every stage

"I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection! But I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ Jesus saved me for and wants me to be... I am still not all I should be, but I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is CALLING us up to heaven." —Philippians 3:12-14 (NLT)

7. Take every step with a purpose

"All athletes practice strict self-control. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. So I run straight to the goal with purpose in every step. I am not like a boxer who misses his punches." —1 Corinthians 9:25-26 (NLT)

"Lift up your tired hands, then, and strengthen your trembling knees! Keep walking on straight paths, so that your lame foot may not be disabled, but instead be healed." —Hebrews 12:12-13 (TEV)

8. Realize that what I don't finish, God will

"I am sure that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on that day when Christ Jesus comes back again." —Philippians 1:6 (NLT)

"Dear friends, we are already God's children, and we can't even imagine what we will be like when Christ returns. But we do know that when he comes we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is!" —1 John 3:2 (NLT)