

**Compete  
“Everyone Runs”**

**1. Everyone \_\_\_\_Runs\_\_\_\_.**

**1 Cor. 9:24** *Remember that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize. You also must run in such a way that you will win.*

**2. What \_\_competitors\_\_ know.**

**1 Cor. 9:22-23** *When I am with those who are oppressed, I share their oppression so that I might bring them to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone so that I might bring them to Christ. <sup>23</sup>I do all this to spread the Good News, and in doing so I enjoy its blessings.*

**1 Cor. 9:25** *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.*

**3. No \_\_\_\_bronze\_\_\_\_ medals.**

**1 Cor. 9:24** *Remember that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize. You also must run in such a way that you will win.*

## Compete “Big Dreams”

**Judges 5:7** *There were few people left in the villages of Israel-until Deborah arose as a mother for Israel.*

### 1. The door to Big Dreams is wise choices.

**Judges 4:4-5** *Deborah, the wife of Lappidoth, was a prophet who had become a judge in Israel. <sup>5</sup>She would hold court under the Palm of Deborah, which stood between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites came to her to settle their disputes.*

### 2. The time to stop talking and start walking.

**Judges 4:6-9** *One day she sent for Barak son of Abinoam, who lived in Kedesh in the land of Naphtali. She said to him, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, commands you: Assemble ten thousand warriors from the tribes of Naphtali and Zebulun at Mount Tabor. <sup>7</sup>I will lure Sisera, commander of Jabin’s army, along with his chariots and warriors, to the Kishon River. There I will give you victory over him.” <sup>8</sup>Barak told her, “I will go, but only if you go with me!” <sup>9</sup>“Very well,” she replied, “I will go with you. But since you have made this choice, you will receive no honor. For the LORD’S victory over Sisera will be at the hands of a woman.” So Deborah went with Barak to Kedesh.*

### 3. The power of a team.

**Judges 4:7** *I will lure Sisera, commander of Jabin’s army, along with his chariots and warriors, to the Kishon River. There I will give you victory over him.”*

**Judges 4:17** *Meanwhile, Sisera ran to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, because Heber’s family was on friendly terms with King Jabin of Hazor.*

**Judges 4:20-22** *“Stand at the door of the tent,” he told her. “If anybody comes and asks you if there is anyone here, say no.” <sup>21</sup>But when Sisera fell asleep from exhaustion, Jael quietly crept up to him with a hammer and tent peg. Then she drove the tent peg through his temple and into the ground, and so he died. <sup>22</sup>When Barak came looking for Sisera, Jael went out to meet him. She said, “Come, and I will show you the man you are looking for.” So he followed her into the tent and found Sisera lying there dead, with the tent peg through his temple.*

## Compete “Finishers”

**Mark 4:3-8** *“Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seed. <sup>4</sup>As he scattered it across his field, some seed fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate it. <sup>5</sup>Other seed fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The plant sprang up quickly, <sup>6</sup>but it soon wilted beneath the hot sun and died because the roots had no nourishment in the shallow soil. <sup>7</sup>Other seed fell among thorns that shot up and choked out the tender blades so that it produced no grain. <sup>8</sup>Still other seed fell on fertile soil and produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted.”*

### 1. Finishers are on a mission.

**Mark 4:15 & 20** *The seed that fell on the hard path represents those who hear the message, but then Satan comes at once and takes it away from them. <sup>20</sup>But the good soil represents those who hear and accept God’s message and produce a huge harvest—thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted.”*

### 2. Finishers know how to interpret opposition.

**Mark 4:16-17** *The rocky soil represents those who hear the message and receive it with joy. <sup>17</sup>But like young plants in such soil, their roots don’t go very deep. At first they get along fine, but they wilt as soon as they have problems or are persecuted because they believe the word.*

### 3. Finishers know how to handle opportunity.

**Mark 4:18-19** *The thorny ground represents those who hear and accept the Good News, <sup>19</sup>but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for nice things, so no crop is produced.*

# Compete “Shortcuts”

All sin is shortcuts...

## 1. Shortcuts require us to agree.

**Acts 4:32, 36-37** *All the believers were of one heart and mind, and they felt that what they owned was not their own; they shared everything they had. <sup>36</sup>For instance, there was Joseph, the one the apostles nicknamed Barnabas (which means “Son of Encouragement”). He was from the tribe of Levi and came from the island of Cyprus. <sup>37</sup>He sold a field he owned and brought the money to the apostles for those in need.*

**Acts 5:1-2** *There was also a man named Ananias who, with his wife, Sapphira, sold some property. <sup>2</sup>He brought part of the money to the apostles, but he claimed it was the full amount. His wife had agreed to this deception.*

## 2. Shortcuts seem reasonable.

**Acts 5:3-5** *Then Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart? You lied to the Holy Spirit, and you kept some of the money for yourself. <sup>4</sup>The property was yours to sell or not sell, as you wished. And after selling it, the money was yours to give away. How could you do a thing like this? You weren’t lying to us but to God.” <sup>5</sup>As soon as Ananias heard these words, he fell to the floor and died. Everyone who heard about it was terrified.*

## 3. Right now I have options.

**Acts 5:7-11** *About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. <sup>8</sup>Peter asked her, “Was this the price you and your husband received for your land?” “Yes,” she replied, “that was the price.” <sup>9</sup>And Peter said, “How could the two of you even think of doing a thing like this - conspiring together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Just outside that door are the young men who buried your husband, and they will carry you out, too.” <sup>10</sup>Instantly, she fell to the floor and died. When the young men came in and saw that she was dead, they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. <sup>11</sup>Great fear gripped the entire church and all others who heard what had happened.*

# Compete

## “Training” Josh Adams

**Hebrews 12:1-2a** *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily hinders our progress. And let us run with endurance the race that God has set before us. <sup>2</sup>We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from start to finish....*

### 1. All coaches are players.

**1 Kings 19:19-21** *So Elijah went and found Elisha son of Shaphat plowing a field with a team of oxen. There were eleven teams of oxen ahead of him, and he was plowing with the twelfth team. Elijah went over to him and threw his cloak (mantle, KJV) across his shoulders and walked away again. <sup>20</sup>Elisha left the oxen standing there, ran after Elijah, and said to him, “First let me go and kiss my father and mother good-bye, and then I will go with you!” Elijah replied, “Go on back! But consider what I have done to you.” <sup>21</sup>Elisha then returned to his oxen, killed them, and used the wood from the plow to build a fire to roast their flesh. He passed around the meat to the other plowmen, and they all ate. Then he went with Elijah as his assistant.*

### 2. Coaches enable others.

**2 Kings 2:7-9a** *Fifty men from the group of prophets also went and watched from a distance as Elijah and Elisha stopped beside the Jordan River. <sup>8</sup>Then Elijah folded his cloak (mantle, KJV) together and struck the water with it. The river divided, and the two of them went across on dry ground! <sup>9</sup>When they came to the other side, Elijah said to Elisha, “What can I do for you before I am taken away?”*

### 3. The race is not a sprint, but a relay.

**2 Kings 2:13-15** *Then Elisha picked up Elijah’s cloak (mantle, KJV) and returned to the bank of the Jordan River. <sup>14</sup>He struck the water with the cloak (mantle, KJV) and cried out, “Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?” Then the river divided, and Elisha went across. <sup>15</sup>When the group of prophets from Jericho saw what happened, they exclaimed, “Elisha has become Elijah’s successor!” And they went to meet him and bowed down before him.*

**2 Tim. 2:2** *You have heard me teach many things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Teach these great truths to trustworthy people who are able to pass them on to others.*

## Compete “Bad Calls”

### 1. Identify yourself.

**1 Peter 4:12-13** *Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.*

**Romans 8:15-17** *For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." 16The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. 17Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. .*

### 2. Avoid the other kind of suffering.

**1 Peter 4:15** *If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler.*

### 3. Separate doing and trusting.

**1 Peter 4:14,19** *If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.*

**19** *So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.*

### Make it Public

1 Peter 4:16 But it is no shame to suffer for being a Christian. Praise God for the privilege of being called by His wonderful name!