

Victory Connect Lesson
Shift Your Focus
Paul Daugherty
October 20, 2024

Key Passage: Heb 12:1 NIV - 1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,

Introduction: There are any things in this world that can distract our attention from God's "race" for our lives. If we are distracted, we are not effective. To be effective, we must lay aside weights and shift our focus to Jesus.

1. Sluggishness and discouragement are examples of weights to throw off. Pro 12:24 NKJV - 24 The hand of the diligent will rule, But the lazy [man] will be put to forced labor. Pro 24:16 NIV - 16 for though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again...

2. Nehemiah rebuked his distractors. Neh 6:3 NKJV - 3 So I sent messengers to them, saying, "I [am] doing a great work, so that I cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you?"

How to Shift Your Focus to Jesus and run your race:

1. Fix your thoughts on God's Word. Phl 4:8 NLT - 8 ...Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

2. Focus on who God is according to His Word. 1Jo 4:4 KJV - 4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

3. Focus on who God's Word says you are. Rom 8:37 NKJV - 37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

4. Focus by attacking the giant right now. 1Sa 17:48 NLT - 48 As Goliath moved closer to attack, David quickly ran out to meet him.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is holding you back from your divine race?
2. Share a time you overcame a lack of motivation?
3. What does God want you to focus on right now?

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