



I. INTRO/REVIEW

A. Olympic Motto – Stronger, faster and higher

- Stronger – Olympic symbol recognizable and so is the cross
 - You could wear something with the rings – not an Olympian – and you can wear a cross and not be a Christian
- Faster – the pressure to run faster and hurry up
 - What if you're only in a hurry only to show up at the wrong place?
- We're all going to end up at the same place

Revelation 22:12 (NKJV) I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.

2 Corinthians 5:9-10 (NKJV) ¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

B. In light of this fact ...

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (CEV) ²⁴You know that many runners enter a race, and only one of them wins the prize. So run to win! ²⁵Athletes work hard to win a crown that cannot last, but we do it for a crown that will last forever. ²⁶I don't run without a goal. (And I don't box by beating my fists in the air. ²⁷I keep my body under control and make it my slave, so I won't lose out after telling the good news to others.

- Olympic athletes choose discipline over delight
- They evaluate everything by whether or not it will help them succeed

II. BUT WE

A. We can't all be Olympic athletes – but we are to run to win

What would a champion do?

- If you only live once – run to win!

Philippians 1:6 (NKJV) being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ;

Colossians 3:17 (NKJV) And whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.



III. GIDEON

A. Quick History lesson

Judges 6:1 (NKJV) Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord. So the Lord delivered them into the hand of Midian for seven years,

- Pattern – disobedience, disaster and deliverance

B. Enter Gideon

Judges 6:11-12 (NKJV) ¹¹Now the Angel of the Lord came and sat under the terebinth tree which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites. ¹²And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him, and said to him, “The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor!”

- Gideon – you’re a champion – no I’m a coward

Judges 6:13 (NKJV) ¹³Gideon said to Him, “O my lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where *are* all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, ‘Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the Lord has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.”

C. Gideon’s story is our story

Judges 6:14-15 (NKJV) ¹⁴Then the Lord turned to him and said, “Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?” ¹⁵So he said to Him, “O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house.”

- We base ourselves on what others have told us about us

Lord open our eyes for even 30 seconds so we can see ourselves like you do

D. God is with us

Judges 6:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶And the Lord said to him, “Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man.”

- The question is never God are you here it’s always will we be where God is?
- Gideon was asked to live like a man who believed that God was with him

IV. LIVE YOUR LIFE WITH THIS FILTER

A. God is with me, He’s in me, and He’s for me

Joy

CHRISTIAN CENTER

Stronger, Faster, Higher

Week Three
February 23, 2014

Higher



Stronger, Faster, Higher

Romans 8:32 (NKJV) ³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who *can be* against us?

- The value of a thing is the price it'll bring

Romans 8:32 (NKJV) ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

What would a champion do?

What will you do?