

## PREPARING FOR SPIRITUAL COMPETITION.

Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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### 2 Timothy 2:3-4-Passion

3 Overcome every form of evil as a victorious soldier of Jesus the Anointed One.

4 For every soldier called to active duty must divorce himself from the distractions of this world so that he may fully satisfy the one who chose him.

### 2 Timothy 2:5-KJV

“And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.”

**AMP** - And if anyone enters *competitive games*, he is not crowned unless he competes lawfully (fairly, according to the rules laid down).

**Passion Translation** – 5... An athlete who doesn't play by the rules will never receive the trophy, so remain faithful to God!

**Strive for masteries** - *athleō, athlesis*, - a man involved in a tremendous athletic competition. athletics.

**Strive for masteries** – to endure to win the competition.

**1. IT IS THE SPIRITUAL FIGHTS IN LIFE THAT ALWAYS REVEAL THE GENUINE LEVEL OF OUR COMMITMENT.**

### 2 Corinthians 2:11-GW

11 I don't want Satan to outwit us. After all, we are not ignorant about Satan's scheming.

### 2 Timothy 1:12-EMTV

12 For which cause I also suffer these things; but I am not ashamed, for *I know whom I have believed*, and *I have been persuaded that He is able to guard that which I have committed to Him until that Day*.

### 1 Corinthians 9:24-27-Living Bible

24 In a race everyone runs, but only one person gets first prize. *So run your race to win*.

25 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 blue ribbon or a silver cup, but we do it for a heavenly reward that never disappears. (*a wreath that quickly fades-KJV*)

26 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*.

27 Like an athlete *I punish my body, treating it roughly, training it to do what it should, not what it wants to*. Otherwise, I fear that after enlisting others for the race, I myself might be declared unfit and ordered to stand aside.

**2. WE ARE TO DISCIPLINE OURSELVES, SPIRITUALLY, IN ORDER TO OVERCOME THE CHALLENGES, WE FACE.**

### Romans 6:17-Passion

17 And God is pleased with you, for in the past you were servants of sin, *but now your obedience is heart deep*, and *your life is being molded by truth through the teaching you are devoted to*.

**3. WE HAVE TO MENTALLY AND SPIRITUALLY PREPARE OURSELVES TO BE STRONG AGAINST THE ATTACKS OF SATAN.**

### Colossians 1:29-AMP

29 For this I labor [*unto weariness*], striving with all the superhuman energy, which He so mightily enkindles and works within me.