

Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (NLT)

WHAT TO DO WHILE YOU ARE WAITING FOR THE RACE TO START

1. GET SET IN _____

Even when there was no reason for hope, Abraham kept hoping—believing that he would become the father of many nations. For God had said to him, “That’s how many descendants you will have!” And Abraham’s faith did not weaken, even though, at about 100 years of age, he figured his body was as good as dead—and so was Sarah’s womb. Abraham never wavered in believing God’s promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God. He was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever he promises. **Romans 4:18-21 (NLT)**

2. SHUT OUT _____

Then Job replied to the LORD: “I know that you can do anything, and no one can stop you. You asked, ‘Who is this that questions my wisdom with such ignorance?’ It is I—and I was talking about things I knew nothing about, things far too wonderful for me... I take back everything I said, and I sit in dust and ashes to show my repentance.”

Job 42:1-3, 6 (NLT)

3. DON'T _____

Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed. **Proverbs 15:22 (NIV)**

People who conceal their sins will not prosper, but if they confess and turn from them, they will receive mercy. **Proverbs 28:13 (NLT)**

We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you. **Psalms 33:20-22 (NIV)**