

# Paul's Half-Time Speech

(Insights from 1 Corinthians 9:24 - 10:13)

Pastor Bob Johnson, Grace Point Church, April 3rd, 2016

## How the Race is Won ...

(1 Corinthians 9:24-27)

Am I playing to win or playing \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Playing to win takes:

- \_\_\_\_\_ (v25)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (v26)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (v27)

## How the Race is Lost:

(1 Corinthians 10:1-12)

- assuming ... good start =
- assuming ... here =
- assuming ... religious acts =

## How To Get Back In the Race ...

(1 Corinthians 10:13)

1. The way \_\_\_\_\_ is not unique to you
2. The way \_\_\_\_\_ is not unique to you

Along with the lessons from the Israelites ...

Remember the 'Lilly Lesson' ...

message available at [www.gracepointsd.com](http://www.gracepointsd.com)  
and/or search Grace Point Church San Diego on your Podcast App

## This Week's Discussion Guide:

**Welcome to "Week 1" of this season of our small groups at GPC!** Our small groups are where folks move from 'believers' to 'belongers'. May we receive lots of encouragement and support and deepening friendships in the weeks ahead as we meet together, pray together, study God's Word together and hopefully find other ways to connect outside of our group meetings. Our groups meet for nine months throughout the year. These nine months are broken up in three seasons or quarters. We meet from September - November, take December off, meet again from January - March, and then from April - June. After we take July and August off, we start it all over again :). This quarter our groups will meet for 12 weeks starting with this week and ending the week of June 19th.

### Getting Started:

This past Sunday, we looked at Paul's 'half-time speech' which wraps up the first half of 1 Corinthians and sets up the second half. When you think of 'inspirational speeches' (fiction or non-fiction) what comes to mind? Anyone remember the president's speech from the movie Independence Day? That is one of Pastor Bob's favorites :).

Looking back at your notes from last Sunday, what did you find most interesting, challenging or thought provoking as we studied 1 Corinthians 9:24 - 10:13?

Getting a little more personal, we all can tend to drift once in awhile. When was the last time you felt like your focus or pursuit in life and God's plan seemed to be heading in different directions? How did you become aware of this?

### Digging Deeper:

1. Last Sunday, we looked at 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 and how Paul's description of training for a race relates to our own lives. Read a few more of Paul's racing analogies and find as many of his 'training tips' as you can.

Philippians 3:13-14

2 Timothy 2:5

Hebrews 12:1-3

Our small group is one place where we can talk about our 'race strategy' and get some helpful encouragement. In addition to prayer, what are a few other specific ways that we can help each other in the next few months apply Paul's advice?

How can our past successes and failures help us run or slow us down?

**2.** Competitive athletes are strategic about their racing; they 'play to win' instead of 'playing not to lose.' Jesus told a story about some guys who illustrated both of these strategies.

Read Matthew 25:14-30 and imagine what each servant must have been thinking. What words would you use to describe someone who is 'playing to win' compared to another who is 'playing not to lose'?

God has also given each one of us specific 'talents' (gifts, abilities, and resources). What are some of the talents you believe God has given you and how do you think you could invest or develop them?

Are there any talents you need to be careful not to bury?

**3.** In addition to using what God has given us to win the race, we also need to know how temptations threaten to take us out of the race. When we find ourselves giving in to temptation, it's often the last step in a series of bad choices.

Read Genesis 3:1-3 and identify both the strategy of the serpent and the steps that led to Adam and Eve's sin.

What lessons can we learn from Adam and Eve's experience about how temptation works in our own lives and how we can respond to God when we have blown it?

What are a few reasons people don't take the 'obedient way out' when it comes to temptation?

## **WRAPPING UP ...**

Based on last week's message and our discussion, is there any specific application that God might be prompting you to live out this week?

What prayer requests can we share so we can pray for each other before we close and until our small group meeting?

Our next 'Faith in Action' Sunday is next Sunday, April 10th! As a small group, let's plan to serve with our church family and possibly choose to be part of one of the projects together. We will all meet at church next Sunday morning at 8:30am and leave for the school or park that we are signed up for at 8:45am and work from 9am to 11am. May God use our church next weekend to extend His love in powerful ways!!

Which of the projects can we look forward to investing in together?

Since there will be no 'sermon discussion guide' next week, what will our plans be as a small group?