

Success in the Race



Declaring God's Word (Day 337)
by Derek Prince

The ninth "Let us" step from the book of Hebrews is found in the first verse of chapter 12:

> "Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us." (Hebrews 12:1, NASB)

In English translations, there are two "let us" phrases in that one verse, which is a perfectly legitimate translation. But it just so happens that, in the original Greek, the first phrase, "let us... lay aside every encumbrance," is not found in that form. Instead, it is a participle that reads like this: "Laying aside every encumbrance, let us run with endurance the race." The real "let us" phrase in the above verse, on which we will need to focus, is "Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us."

Here and elsewhere in the New Testament, the Christian life is compared to a race. This analogy implies a specific course marked out before us in advance. Success in the Christian life consists in completing the course in accordance with the rules of the competition.

In light of the fact that we are confronted with this race that is set before us, we need to see that there are four requirements for successfully completing the race. Each one of these requirements is found in the New Testament:

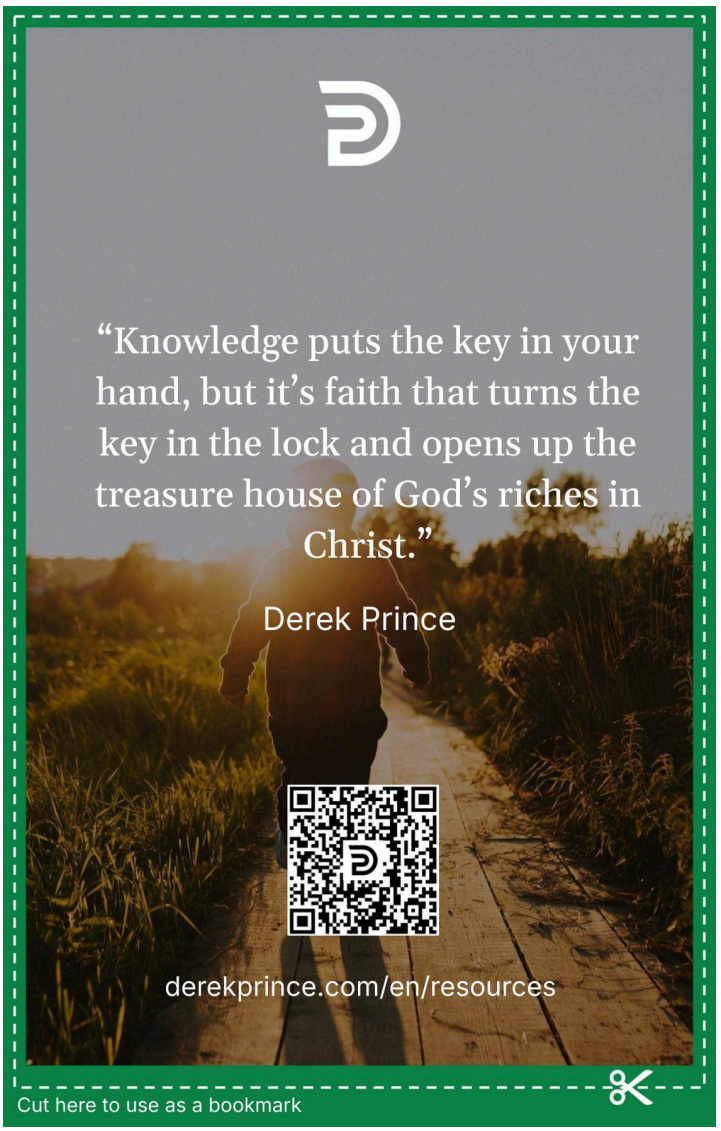
1. The right mental attitude,
2. Self-control,
3. Endurance, and,
4. Having our eyes fixed on Jesus.

If we will keep these requirements in mind, we can finish the race and keep the faith.

Devotional

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