

HOW CAN THIS CHALLENGE HELP ME FIND SIGNIFICANCE IN LIFE?

RUNNING FOR A CAUSE

Anyone can run, but it takes a special person to run for a cause. Running for a cause shifts our motive from the personal benefits or gratification that comes from competing in an event to, in this case, a PURE CAUSE. Running and fundraising for orphan children, places our efforts in the incredible category of Pure and Faultless Religion, or ministry (James 1:27). Psalm 68: 4 -6 declares that God is a “father to the fatherless” and your efforts help God provide for orphan children around the world. As you train, know your motives touch the heart of God and bless the lives of orphan children.

RUNNING TO STRENGTHEN MY LIFE PHYSICALLY, EMOTIONALLY & SPIRITUALLY

In America many people desire to be more physically fit, yet most people fall short of this goal. A truth that should motivate us is that God created us to be active. When our body is in physical shape through consistent exercise, it strengthens us emotionally as well. Our bodies are designed to produce endorphins when we run. These endorphins give us a more balanced state of mind. Christians sometimes stop short of connecting the dots. If we want to be our spiritual best, we will strive for balance because God created us physical, emotional, and spiritual beings. Run to be stronger in all three areas.

RUNNING TO DEVELOP RELATIONSHIPS AND ENCOURAGE OTHERS

Take advantage of the training day runs with your church. You will find that running and training together is a great way to get to know new people as well as getting to know people at a deeper level. Training together creates “community.” It creates opportunities to share what is going on in our lives and gives us the chance to encourage others. Lone Rangers (runners) miss out on being encouraged by others and encouraging others.

PUSHING PAST MY HESITATION TO RAISE FUNDS

Most people struggle or hesitate when it comes to asking people for money. In this case, remind yourself that this is not about you or for you. You are on God’s mission to help provide for children that desperately need help to have the basic necessities to survive. God feels so strongly about taking care of the weak and fatherless that in Psalm 41: 1 -3, **He promises blessing, protection and to restore health for those who take up His cause.** You are actually giving people an opportunity to partner with God and be blessed by God. Ask **BOLDLY**. This is not about you!

RUNNING AS A VEHICLE TO SHARE JESUS

Take advantage of the opportunities that come from participating in a charity run. As you invite people to either participate as a runner or to sponsor you with donations, share why you are doing this for God. Let your passion for Jesus shine through as you tell about your involvement. The Holy Spirit can use your conversations to draw people to a saving faith in Jesus, the Savior of the world. Expect it!