

DARING TO GIVE GOD MY BEST

Daring Faith: The Key to Miracles
Rick Warren

“Do your best to improve your faith by adding goodness, understanding, self-control, patience, devotion to God, concern for others, and love. If you keep growing in this way, it will show that . . . Christ has made your lives useful and meaningful.” 2 Peter 1:5-8 (CEV)

“Honor God with everything you own; give him the first and the best. Your barns will burst, your wine vats will brim over.” Proverbs 3:9-10 (MSG)

HOW DO I GIVE MY BEST TO GOD?

2 Timothy 2:3-7 A Soldier, an Athlete, a Farmer

“Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer. Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor’s crown except by competing according to the rules. The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.” 2 Timothy 2:3-7 (NIV)

LESSONS FROM THE MILITARY LIKE AN EFFECTIVE SOLDIER, I MUST . . .

1. _____
*“The greatest love is shown when a person lays down his life for his friends.”
John 15:13 (TLB)*

2. _____
*“Accept your share of suffering like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.”
2 Timothy 2:3 (CEB)*

“Live a life of love just as Christ loved us and gave himself for us as a sweet-smelling offering and sacrifice to God.” Ephesians 5:2 (NCV)

3. _____
“Soldier, don’t get tied up in affairs of civilian life, for then they cannot please the officer who enlisted them.” 2 Timothy 2:4 (NLT)

LESSONS FROM SPORTS

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

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (TLB)

TO WIN THE PRIZE, I MUST . . .

1. _____
“In a race everyone runs, but only one person gets first prize. So run your race to win.” 1 Corinthians 9:24 (TLB)

“Run your best in the race of faith, and win eternal life for yourself; for it was to this life that God called you when you firmly professed your faith before many witnesses.” 1 Timothy 6:12 (GNT)

2. _____
*“If anyone competes he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.”
2 Timothy 2:5 (LEB)*

“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. So I run straight to the goal with purpose in every step.” 1 Corinthians 9:25-26 (TLB)

3. _____
“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.” 1 Corinthians 9:26 (TLB)

Jesus: *“The Kingdom of Heaven is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field.” Matthew 13:24 (NLT)*

LESSONS FROM FARMING

“Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. ‘For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.’ And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others . . . For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you. Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous . . . For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ.”

2 Corinthians 9:6-13 (NLT)

TO REAP A GREAT HARVEST, I MUST . . .

2 PROMISES OF JESUS

“Give, and you will receive. You will be given much. It will be poured into your hands—more than you can hold. You will be given so much that it will spill into your lap. The way you give to others is the way God will give to you.” Luke 6:38 (ICB)

“Jesus told him: You can be sure that anyone who gives up home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or land for me and for the good news will be rewarded. In this world they will be given 100 times . . . though they will also be mistreated. And in the world to come, they will have eternal life.”

Mark 10:29-30 (CEV)

Next Steps

Visit PastorRick.com for more Bible teaching and to sign up for the daily devotional.

Did you pray and give your life to Jesus for the first time today? Email Rick@PastorRick.com for free tools to help you on your spiritual journey!

Has Daily Hope helped you? Share your story with Pastor Rick at Rick@PastorRick.com

Help Daily Hope reach more people with the certain hope of Jesus! Give now at Donate.PastorRick.com