



A Winning Strategy for 2008!

The Christian life is compared to _____ a _____

Both take

- _____
- _____
- _____

Hebrews 12:1-3 - Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Things that are to be thrown off:

- Stuff that will _____ us _____
- Stuff that will _____ us _____

What hinders us?

Stressors in our Lives

Percent of Stress

- _____ Work (job, career, etc.)
- _____ Relationships (spouse, friends, family, parents, etc.)
- _____ Personal Concerns (self esteem, social issues, religion, etc.)
- _____ Money (financial issues, etc.)
- _____ Personal Health Issues
- _____ Time Pressures (deadlines, etc.)
- _____ Personal Appearance (weight, looks, etc)
- _____ Personal loss (divorce, death, etc.)
- _____ Other

Total = 100%

- The _____ of the American life.
- The _____ of the American life.

1 Peter 5:7 - Cast all your cares on him because he cares for you.

What trips us up? (the sin that so easily entangles)

_____ are the _____ of change.

What we fail to see are the consequences of our sin.

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Ephesians 4:22-24 - You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

1 Peter 2:1-3 - Rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind...

I think the major reason we don't deal with sin strongly and firmly is because we underestimate its seriousness--to God, to God, to us, to those with whom we fellowship, to the church, to the unbelievers. Our sin steals joy; our sin ruins fellowship with God; our sin diminishes fruitfulness; our sin robs us of peace; our sin renders our service useless; our sin mitigates against our effectiveness in evangelism; our sin hinders our prayers; our sin brings the discipline of God. We need to understand the seriousness of our sin. It violates first and foremost our relationship with the Lord.

John MacArthur

Psalm 119:32 - I shall run the way of your commandments, for you will enlarge my heart.

Run with _____

Keeping our _____ (verse 2)

Who is a witness for whom you need to keep running?