

# PERSEVERANCE

A person is running on a track at night, with their legs and feet visible in motion. The background is dark, and the track has white lane markings. The overall image has a warm, orange-red tint.

***in the Christian Race***

**Isaiah 40:28-31**

# Isaiah 40: 31

31 Yet *those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.*



A low-angle, close-up shot of a person's legs and feet running on a track at night. The person is wearing white sneakers and dark shorts. The track has white lane markings. The scene is illuminated by a warm, orange-red light, possibly from a street lamp or track lighting, creating long shadows and a sense of motion. The background is dark and out of focus.

Luke 21:19

***“In your perseverance you  
will possess your souls.”***

# Definition:

“To continue *steadily and firmly in a pursuit*, especially in the face of opposition, to *endure . . .*”

# THESIS:

- How should we run?
- How do we avoid weariness?
- What is the KEY to success?



# Important Elements Needed For a Bright Future...

- PROPER **VISION**
- PERSONAL **INVOLVEMENT**
- **PERSEVERANCE**
- GOOD **LEADERSHIP**
- **UNITY**

**Dreaming the dream . . .**

# HOW SHOULD WE RUN?

Run to win!

“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize” (1 Cor 9:24-27).

# RUNNING FOR THE PRIZE

1 CORINTHIANS 9:24-27





# HOW SHOULD WE RUN?



A male athlete in a white singlet and black shorts is in a starting crouch on a blue running track. The track has white lane markings. In the background, there is a wall with diagonal blue and white stripes. The overall image has a blue tint.

# Run With **Determination**

“This **one** thing I do” (Phil 3:13)



# HOW SHOULD WE RUN?

Run so you are forward  
looking. 

“Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize” (Phil 3:13b-14).



# HOW SHOULD WE RUN?

Run with discipline.

- “Everyone who competes in the games exercises *self-control* in all things. . .
- “I *discipline* my body and make it my slave” (1 Cor 9:25-27).

# HOW SHOULD WE RUN?

Run with confidence.

“Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air” (I Cor 9:26-27).

# HOW SHOULD WE RUN?

Run with perseverance.

“Throw off everything that *hinders* and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with *perseverance* (patience) the race marked out for us” (Heb 12:1)



# GREAT ENDURANCE







# **RUNNING THE RACE OF GRACE**

# **MARATHON**

**HEBREWS 12:1-2**

# How should we run?

- Run Looking to Jesus!

“Let us **fix our eyes on Jesus**, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy **set before him** endured the cross, scorning its shame (Heb 12:2).



# How Do We Avoid Becoming Weary?

- Must realize it is a self-imposed condition.
  - Jesus: “*My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow.*”
  - “*Abba, Father, everything is possible with you*” (Mark 14:34-36).

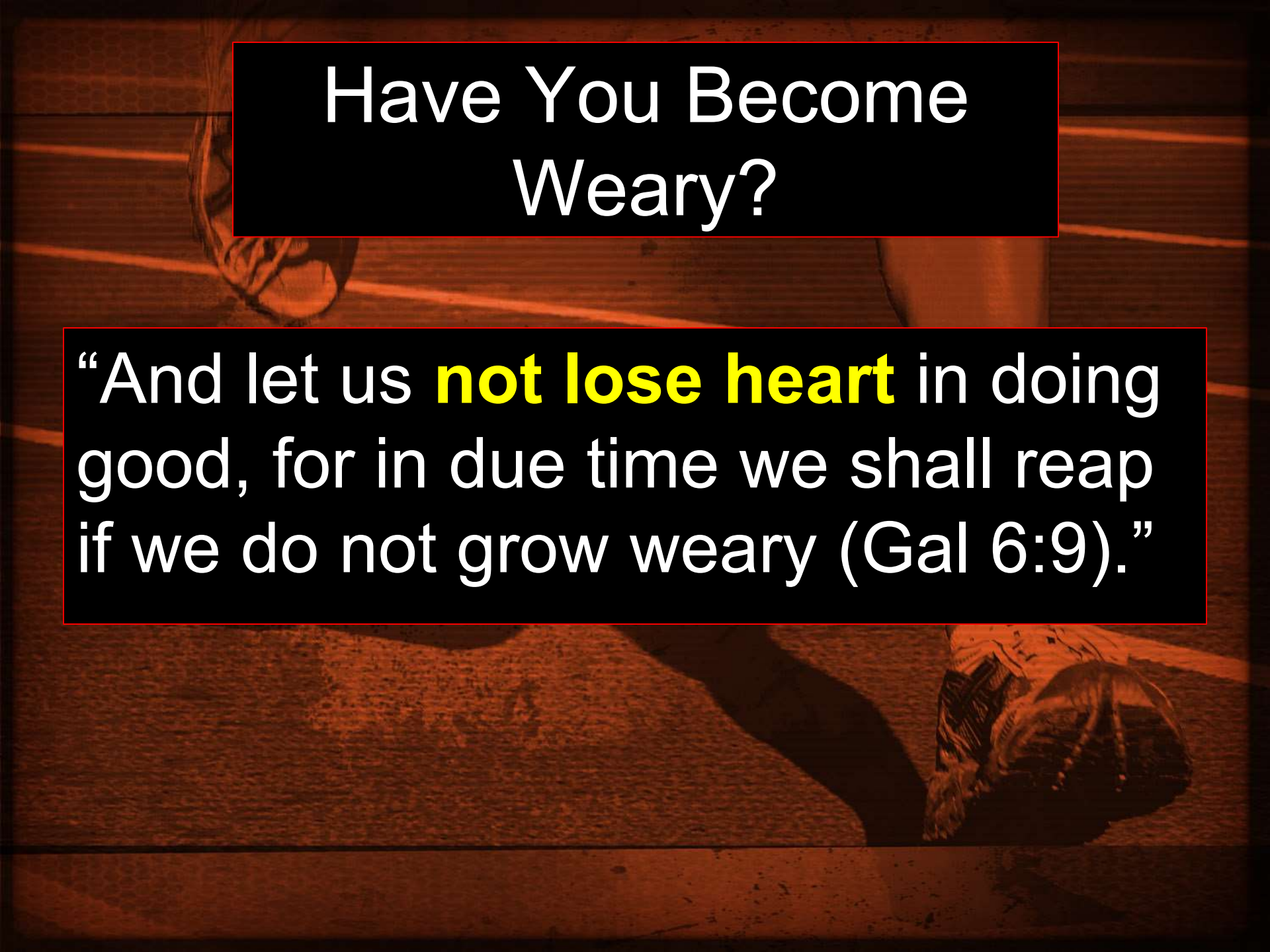
# How Do We Avoid Becoming Weary?

- Must learn to depend upon God as the ultimate source of strength.
  - Paul's trials as a minister (2 Cor 11:25-30).
  - “When I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Cor 12:10).

# How Do We Avoid Becoming Weary?

- **Realize the 3 D's are tools of Satan.**
  - Discouragement + Despair = Depression.
  - The Christian armor – no room for retreat (Eph 6: 11-17).



A person is running on a track, with a focus on their legs and feet. The image is in a warm, orange-brown color palette. The runner's legs are in motion, and their feet are planted on the track surface. The background is blurred, showing the track's lanes.

# Have You Become Weary?

“And let us **not lose heart** in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary (Gal 6:9).”

# The **Key** to Perseverance is **FAITH** (Heb 11:1;6).

- We need a **Big Faith....**
- We must plan **BIG**, & think **BIG** because we serve **A BIG GOD!**
- “I **CAN** do all things through Christ” (Phil 4:13).



# The **Key to Perseverance** is **FAITH** (Heb 11:1;6).

- We need a **Big Faith....**
- Our only limitation is the size of our **FAITH** (Rom 4:19-22).
- True Faith is not just starting good but ending well! **PERSEVERING!**

# PERSEVERANCE

Have Three Choices!

1. Stop building— **quit!**
2. Stop growing — become stagnant. *Comfortable...*
3. **PERSEVERE** — Continue *building, growing, working!*

# PERSEVERANCE

*“Yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary” (Isaiah 40: 31).*