

APPENDIX 7

SCRIPTURES WITH ATHLETIC THEMES



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1 Timothy 4:7-8	Physical Training: Training in your Christian life has supreme value for now and later
1 Corinthians 9:24-27	Discipline and Self-Control: Discipline your mind and body so that you are a worthy servant of Christ
2 Timothy 4:7-8	Run to the Finish Line: Keep the faith, persevering to the end with sound doctrine and faithful living
Philippians 3:13-14	Press on toward the Prize: Let go of the past with a vision of what is to come
James 1:2-4	Testing and Trials: Joyfully embrace trials as God works in your life so that you are more complete
2 Timothy 2:5	Suffering hardship by the rules: Submit yourself to the rigors of the spiritual life and let God bless you
Philippians 4:13	Strength: Power for everything that matters comes from God
Hebrews 12:1,2	Running the race of faith: Set aside sin and focus on Jesus for the marathon of faith
Colossians 3:1-4	Focus: Set your mind on things above, not on things that are on earth
Romans 15:5	Unity: Be unified with one another concerning Kingdom matters
Philippians 2:3-11	Humility: Treat others with the same humility Christ extends toward you
Ephesians 4:29	Encouragement with words: Use words to edify, not just talk smack

Isaiah 40:27-31	Spiritual refreshment: The Lord supplies strength for those who seek Him
2 Corinthians 12:9,10	Strength and weakness: True strength is discovered in weakness
Deuteronomy 31:7,8	Courage: We can move through fear when God goes before us
2 Corinthians 5:14,15	Motivation: Christ's love toward us motivates different living
2 Corinthians 3:5	Adequacy: Our adequacy to live different and minister to others comes from God
Psalms 139:13-16	God's care in creating our body: Our bodies are special because God is purposeful their creator
Romans 8:28-30	Suffering: God is in control of everything that happens to us

Note: None of these Bible passages were originally intended as pre-game speeches or motivational talks to help athletes "be all that they can be." They were written to encourage holy living, eternal perspective, submission to God—to motivate and illustrate Kingdom living. The Bible uses words common to the world of competition to help us see the Kingdom; don't dilute them by taking them out of their context to serve the locker room. The Bible views life as a long journey, a contested battle, a disciplined adventure, and because of this we find many parallels with the world of sport. Don't be afraid to make connections between the two, just take care not to submit the Bible to sports—it should always be the other way around.