

“RAISING THE BAR”

(1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Hebrews 12:1-3)

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

[24] 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. [25] Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. [26] Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. [27] No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

Hebrews 12:1-3

[1] 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.

INTRODUCTION:

1. PRINCIPLES OF THE ATHLETE

Maximum _____

Ephesians 6:7

Lofty _____

1 Corinthians 9:25

Rigorous _____

1 Timothy 4:7

2. PRINCIPLES OF THE TEAM

Absolute _____

Romans 6:22

Unreserved _____

Hebrews 12:1

Complete _____

1 Corinthians 1:10

3. PRINCIPLES OF ENDURANCE & STRENGTH

Boundless _____

Acts 1:8

Complete _____

Isaiah 41:10

Unwavering _____

Philippians 1:6