

GETTING THROUGH THE TOUGH STUFF: IT'S ALWAYS SOMETHING!

GETTING THROUGH THE TOUGH STUFF OF DISQUALIFICATION

1 CORINTHIANS 9:24-10:13



The Heart of the Matter

Disqualified. The mere mention of the word stirs up strong emotions. No matter the situation, the word smacks of shame, humiliation, and the worst kind of failure. The Scriptures call us to be like Christ, but they also offer warnings regarding disqualification. Some of us wrongly claim immunity from such attitudes; others of us believe we are beyond help. Paul reminds us that God's faithfulness provides a way through the temptations that lead to disqualification.



Discovering the Way

1. Scriptural Word Pictures Regarding Distinctiveness

God wants us to be different, because to be "like them" is to lose our effectiveness. When our lives are marked by compromise and we're disqualified, we lose the purpose of our being on earth. This kind of distinctiveness requires discipline, determination, and self-restraint.

2. Personal Warnings Regarding Disqualification (1 Corinthians 10:1-11)

Many of us think the only dangers we must watch out for come from being too involved with the world. Not so! We are constantly tempted to become self-satisfied in spiritual things — overexposed, oversaturated. Disqualification occurs in the midst of such complacency.



Starting Your Journey

How do we respond to disqualification? For those of us who believe it won't happen to us, we must take heed of Paul's warnings. On the other hand, for those of us who feel trapped by the shame of disqualification, we must remember that God's faithfulness provides a way through such temptation.



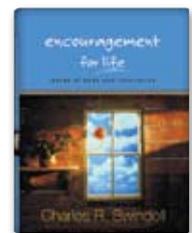
Tools for Digging Deeper



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