

Don't Jog, Run the Race

Jim arrived at the stadium a full hour ahead of the team and sat quietly at the edge of the track near the starting line.

He stared blankly at the finish line as he recounted the hundreds of hours spent training for this event. He wasn't naturally a gifted runner, but his relentless desire to win pushed him.

Later, Jim's coach approached to check on him. "Are you ready, Jim?"

He nodded his head, smiled at the coach, and began stretching. The stadium began to fill with spectators as the competitors slowly filled the arena around him, preparing for the race.

The starter called the runners into position as they took their mark. Jim's focus then shifted from the months of training behind him to the lane ahead of him. He began visualizing the finish tape breaking across his chest as he crossed the finish line.

The "set" call came loudly, followed by a pause. "Crack!" The starter pistol broke the silence, and Jim's body shot out of the blocks as he quickly sped down the lane toward the finish line.

We may not exactly be on a race – we call it a journey in Life Care – but the professional course we have set out on has many similarities, including:

- A determination to win – to excel, if you please – in every facet of our work, including clinical outcomes, customer service by every measure, bonding with family members for meeting the residents' needs, recognizing and rewarding our associates, financial results that keep us operationally sound, and being good stewards of the resources entrusted to us.
- Discipline that encompasses continued learning and training to perform at the highest level.
- Integrity – the quality of being honest and fair; character that creates trust and admiration among the publics we serve.
- Commitment – a pledge to accomplish what we set out to do.

Let's not dress out to jog, but as the runner who achieves the prize, let's train hard, work hard, and finish strong.

After all, what we do is more important than a sports activity.

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it (1 Corinthians 9:24 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter