

# “Run Your Own Race”

By McKade Marshall

We are living in a culture that is dominated by competition and comparison. The competitive spirit is ingrained in human nature. In business, companies compete to have the best products and services to grow market share and keep competitors at bay. In sports, athletes undergo rigorous training for months in order to defeat their competitors and hopefully obtain first prize. In schools, students compete to graduate at the top of their class and go to the best universities. In ministries, churches and other charitable outreaches strive to grow bigger and reach more people with unmet needs. In families, sibling rivalry can last a lifetime - who can get the best job, drive the nicest car, and live in the biggest house.

While it is good to strive for excellence and to excel in our life journey, if we are not careful it can become tempting to begin constantly comparing yourself to your neighbor. Instead of being grateful with what God has already blessed you with, you become bitter and begin to complain. Instead of keeping your focus on God and what He has called you to do, you begin to look around and see how much better off (or worse off) others are around you. **King Solomon, a man endowed with great wisdom from God, tells us in Proverbs 4:25-27 (NASB), “Let your eyes look directly ahead and let your gaze be fixed straight in front of you. Watch the path of your feet and all your ways will be established. Do not turn to the right nor to the left; turn your foot from evil.”**

*In other words, be focused.* The Lord wants His children to be disciplined and not walking around without aim. We are living in a period of time when the world is growing further and further away from God and what He has commanded in His Word. Jesus even tells us that in these last days the hearts of many will grow cold towards God and therefore, towards others (Matthew 24:12). The good news today is we don't have to go along with the rest of the world. We can have a different spirit. We can have the mind of Christ (see 1 Corinthians 2:16). If you allow your mind to do its own thing and do not take hold of what is going on inside of your head, it will begin to tell you things contrary to what God says.

We are living in a media saturated culture. Everywhere you turn there are TVs, radios, smartphones, smartwatches, smart tablets, billboards, magazines, newspapers, books, computers, and so forth. Whether we realize it or not, all the media around us - all the chatter - is going into our brains in order to be processed. If we are not continually renewing our minds in the Word of God, then we will begin to just go along with what the world around us is saying. Instead of keeping ourselves set apart for God to do a work in us, we become just like the rest of the world. The world is full of problems. The world can only offer temporary gratification. Many people are lost, confused, and miserable because all they know is what the world has to offer them.

The reason God sent Jesus into the world was to give people hope that is from above. Being set free from the bondage of this world is what Jesus came to do for all who believe in His name. **The Apostle Paul tells us in Colossians 2:20 (NLT), “You have died with Christ, and He has set you free from the spiritual powers of this world. So why do you keep on following the rules of the world?”** When you come to Christ and start following Him, your life journey is going to begin to change. When your eyes are set on God and the things above, you are going to be on a different course than the rest of the world.

Your goal in life is not to just please people. Your ultimate goal is to please God. The way you please God is by honoring Him and His Word. *Hebrews 12:1-2 (NASB) says, “Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us,*

and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Brothers and sisters, God has set before you a race to run. This race can only be completed by one person. That person is you. No one else can run it for you. Likewise, you cannot run somebody else’s race.

You are called to run your own race. On the other side of the finish line is eternity. You are running for an eternal prize. Today God is calling you to approach life with spiritual eyes. The truth is the only thing that lasts forever is what is unseen. This is why we walk by faith and not by sight. The world is quickly passing away. What matters to the world is futile to God. The Lord is more concerned about your heart than your achievements. The only way to fulfill your God-given destiny is by giving God your whole heart first. People are always asking what the key is to seeing world peace. They want to know what the answer is.

**The answer is Jesus.** Jesus Christ is the master of heart transplants. The only way the world will ever become a better place is when the hearts of people are turned towards Him. *The prophet Ezekiel declares in Ezekiel 36:26-27 (NLT), “And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. And I will put My Spirit in you so that you will follow My decrees and be careful to obey My regulations.”* Here Ezekiel is prophesying of a day to come that we are now in. The promise God made through His prophet Ezekiel is now here Church! The Lord sent forth His all-powerful Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost after Jesus’ resurrection so that the bride of Christ would operate in power and authority through His Spirit.

No longer do you have to *try* to obey God. Ezekiel 36:27 tells us God will *cause* you to operate in His decrees and commands. When you get in step with what the Spirit of God is doing, you are walking in and fulfilling your divine purpose. Prayer, worship, and reading the Bible are all how you stir up the Spirit of God inside of you. God has freely poured out power from on high for you to operate in. He fully expects you to drive through life under the influence of the Holy Spirit. Your eyes are set on following Him and what He is doing and not just on seeing what your neighbor is up to. On the contrary, if you start following God and walking in the Spirit your neighbor is going to want to know what you are doing!

Running your own race means you are keeping your eyes fixed on the goal and not focusing so much on what the person next to you is doing. You can be a thermostat and not a thermometer. When you walk into a room full of people, your presence can change the spiritual climate because you are bringing someone much greater and more powerful in the room with you. You are a temple of the Most High God. Wherever you go, He goes. God’s children should be the most confident group of people on the planet. We have the Creator of the universe, the One who spoke everything into existence in six literal days, living on the inside of us! His glory is on display night and day through nature. The sun rises and sets at its appointed time because of Him. The stars shine at night and show all of creation how great our God is.

Today God wants to deposit into your mind and heart a heavenly vision that is from Him. The Lord wants to show you through His Word and by His Spirit some of the plans He has in store for you. **Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV) tells us, “For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the LORD, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”** Friend, God knows exactly what He is doing in your life. He has some really big plans for you. Your job is to believe. *The Apostle Paul tells the church in 1 Corinthians 13:9 that we know in part and we prophesy in part.* You have the ability, if you will be still before the Lord and listen, to receive by way of the Spirit’s revelation a piece of the big picture God wants to show you concerning your life.

The Lord wants to give you a vision to run towards. Aimless wandering is not God’s plan for you. You are not lost and confused when you come into the house of the Lord and spend time with Him. While we all go through periods and seasons of transition and change, our mission to please God should never change. We have all been commissioned to tell the world that Jesus lives and what God has done for us (see Matthew 28:18-20). When you have a vision, make sure to write it down. During your quiet times with God, journal what you feel

He is speaking to your heart. Habakkuk 2:2-3 (ESV) says, “Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it. For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay.”

Not long ago I received a vision from the Lord concerning MLM Publishing, which is the business I legally established when I wrote *Tasting the Goodness of God* in order to handle the printing and logistical side of distributing my books, newsletters, and gospel videos. For the first four years after I began to write I did not really consider MLM Publishing an establishment. It was more of a name I created to label on the devotional book and future works. I never really thought of it as an actual business. It was just a part of my ministry to write and produce film. However, one night while I was lying in bed listening to worship music I began to have a vision. On the movie screen of my mind the Lord showed me huge letters coming down out of the sky and landing on a spacious green lawn in front of a tall corporate building.

The letters were over six feet tall and read “MLM PUBLISHING”. The image I saw reminded me of one of the large corporate headquarters of a company in the business district of a big city. Then I heard the Lord say, “McKade, you need to begin treating MLM Publishing as a business.” After that night something deep within me changed. Overnight things began to shift. I began to view MLM Publishing as more than just a ministry. The Lord showed me that MLM Publishing had to be treated like a business in order to grow. With that I began to edit some ads I had test running on Facebook and stumbled upon a feature for gathering leads from people who were interested in receiving a newsletter and weekly gospel video. The ad has now become so successful that my mailing and e-mailing list has exploded with new subscribers from all across the country! I have more readers and viewers from different states now than ever before. Every day I am adding men and women all over the country who are receiving a weekly gospel video and a seasonal newsletter like this one.

Shortly after the breakthrough with the Facebook leads ad, I came across a web service that could create a professional business website that is user-friendly, clean, and easy to navigate. Over the next few days I began to design the site just how I wanted and purchased the premium service. Today I am excited to announce that MLM Publishing officially has its own website! **I encourage you to pull out your phone right now and type in “mlmpublishing.org” on your web browser and check it out.** As you scroll through the site, you will notice at the top I include the mission statement God put on my heart for this Spirit-led business which says, “*Christian books inspiring people to live for God every day*”. Below that are the three books I have written that can be scrolled through (swipe left or right to view each book). Hopefully sometime next year there will be a FOURTH book that is all about Israel. (I am still working on the manuscript. Keep me in your prayers please!)

In the “About Us” section there is a description of what MLM Publishing is and then two buttons. If you click the “Get in touch” button it allows you to e-mail me, and the “Donate” button allows you to contribute to the ministry. I have already had donors give through mlmpublishing.org by clicking the “Donate” button, so now I have the funds for the time being to continue growing MLM Publishing and run ads 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to reach new potential readers and viewers.

If you scroll to the bottom of the website, you will see a “Join our mailing list” section. I use “us”, “we”, and “our” throughout the website because I do not consider MLM Publishing to be a one-man endeavor but rather a partnership. MLM Publishing exists because of faithful supporters like you. I would never have written a second newsletter almost five years ago or another book had I not had the love, prayers, and support of others God has sent into my life. I consider you a partner with me as we seek to share with as many people as we can that God loves them and that He is fighting their battles for them.

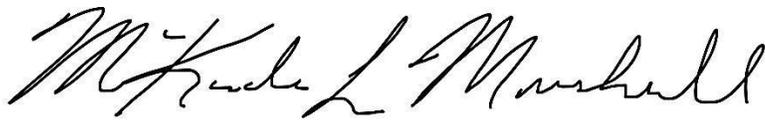
**This fall I believe God is going to show you some life-changing revelations by His Spirit and through His Word.** The Lord wants to show you visions in the night like He has for me. (I encourage you to read chapter 14 of my second book *Breathe* to learn more on this topic.) As you spend time with God in prayer and in studying the Bible, God’s wisdom and knowledge is going to enlighten your heart and help you make better decisions on a daily basis. God is pouring out more of His unconditional love and favor on you so you can be

an example of His goodness to this world. You are the apple of His eye! His presence is always there to comfort, protect, lead, guide, and direct you wherever you go.

This fall newsletter marks the 20th seasonal newsletter since this ministry began in 2014. If you know someone that is not signed up to receive these newsletters, or you are not signed up, I encourage you to go to [mlmpublishing.org](http://mlmpublishing.org) or my personal website [mckademarshall.com](http://mckademarshall.com) and submit your information there. Also, I e-mail hundreds of subscribers a weekly gospel message every Sunday evening called "Word of the Week". If you or someone you know that might be interested is not subscribed, please make sure to add your e-mail addresses as well. I do not want you to miss out on these encouraging, faith-filled weekly messages.

*I declare this fall you are running your own race.* Because you have a vision and a goal from the Lord, you are not coasting through life without aim. Your life matters! Every day counts with God. There are people the Lord wants you to witness to. There are divine assignments He has set for you to complete. You are rising higher in every area of life and overcoming every obstacle that comes your way through the power of the Holy Spirit that is at work in you. With God's help, there is nothing you cannot achieve! I love you, and I am praying for you.

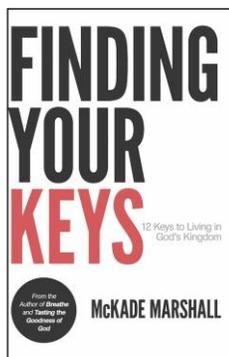
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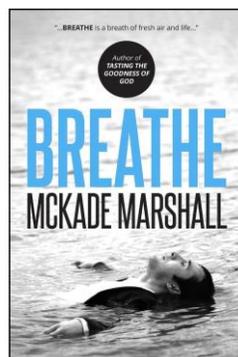
McKade "Levi" Marshall

*Author of "Finding Your Keys", "BREATHE", and "Tasting the Goodness of God"*

**P.S. All proceeds from one-time and monthly recurring donations will go towards promoting weekly gospel videos and seasonal newsletters. Even small amounts can make a large impact!** *For example, on average, for about \$2 spent on a lead ad, a person from any part of the country now signs up to receive weekly gospel videos and seasonal newsletters after seeing a "lead ad". For perspective, just \$10 dollars can change the lives of 5 people, plus whoever they share with, for years to come! Your gift makes an eternal impact!*



**AUTHORITY**



**DREAM**



**DEVOTION**

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