

**Title:** *It's a long distance race...*  
**Speaker:** *Alistair Kingwill*  
**Date:** *10 June 2012*  
**Time:** *09:00*



**Message**

**Hebrews 12:1-2 (NLT)**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. <sup>2</sup> We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting Him, He endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now He is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.

**2 Timothy 4:7**

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

**A: start with faith and hope**

**Romans 5:1-5**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup> and perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup> Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

**Romans 15:13**

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**B: get into the right rhythm**

**Romans 8:1-4**

<sup>1</sup> There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup> For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

**C: don't run out of fuel**

**Galatians 3:2-3**

<sup>2</sup> This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?— <sup>3</sup> Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?

**Galatians 5:4-7 (NLT)**

<sup>4</sup> For if you are trying to make yourselves right with God by keeping the law, you have been cut off from Christ! You have fallen away from God's grace. <sup>5</sup> But we who live by the Spirit eagerly wait to receive by faith the righteousness God has promised to us. <sup>6</sup> For when we place our faith in Christ Jesus, there is no benefit in being circumcised or being uncircumcised. What is important is faith expressing itself in love. <sup>7</sup> You were running the race so well. Who has held you back from following the truth?

***D: make a strong finish***

***2 Corinthians 3:18***

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.