



TRAINING FOR GOLD...IN 2012

31 December 2011, Stephen Smith

You have what it takes to win the Gold. You're in training, your mind is being renewed, you're developing discipline, and God is going to reward you with His best.

In order to reach gold, you have to train for gold!

I Corinthians 9:26 in the Message translation says, *I don't know about you, but I'm running hard for the finish line. I'm giving it everything I've got. No sloppy living for me!*

Saints – God's children, will not automatically begin manifesting the supernatural works of Jesus by sitting in the pews and doing "business as usual." 2010-11 was the opportunity to make paradigm shifts – **a complete change** in your way of looking at the world (your circle of life, influence – of being) vs. God's Kingdom – His way of doing and the role we play in it.

Like Peter, you need to arise in faith and courage and get out of the boat to walk on the water of new truth that leads to progression.

Kingdom concept and principles

In order to understand what it means to *Train for Gold*, we have to understand the Kingdom concept and principles of the Lord.

The power of religion lies in its ability to serve as a substitute for the Kingdom and thus hinder mankind from pursuing the genuine answer to his dilemma.

Religion preoccupies man until he finds the Kingdom.

Religion is what man does until he finds the Kingdom.

Religion prepares man to leave earth; the Kingdom empowers man to dominate earth.

Religion focuses on heaven; the Kingdom focuses on earth.

Religion is reaching up to God; the Kingdom is God coming down to man.

Religion wants to escape earth; the Kingdom impacts, influences and changes earth.

Religion seeks to take earth to Heaven; the Kingdom seeks to bring Heaven to earth.

- Miles Munroe (Kingdom Principles)

The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living. It's our handle on what we can't see.

The act of faith is what distinguished our ancestors, set them above the crowd.

It's impossible to please God apart from faith. And why? Because anyone who wants to approach God must believe both that he exists and that he cares enough to respond to those who seek him.

Hebrews 11:1, 2, 6 (Message)

For trained Olympic Athletes, the Gold medal represents the best or the ultimate reward for all their hard work. To be in competition for the Gold Medal, you must be highly disciplined, committed, dedicated, willing to do things that other people are not willing to do, and have a no-quit attitude. You make rules on yourself, you draw boundaries around yourself, and you simply do not compromise...if you're aiming for the Gold!

... I don't know about you, but I'm running hard for the finish line. I'm giving it everything I've got. No sloppy living for me!

Many Christians today think that God's nature is miraculous, but it's not. When they think of God, they think of miracles. **The nature of God is abundance!**

You can't expect the rewards of diligence if you refuse to become diligent!

You may have a desire for God's best, but it takes a life of discipline to acquire it. Are you living a disciplined lifestyle?

What is the gold?

Going for the Gold, or God's best, is more than being blessed occasionally. It means walking in the blessing of God every day of your life.

Blessed means that you have entered into a state of being. It means to become the object of God's favour and empowered to prosper. You could say that people who are blessed are experiencing God's best. They are now able to be a blessing to others.

Perhaps you need to get a revelation of just how special you are to God. Peter says, "We are a peculiar people." In the literal Greek, that means a *special treasure*. **You are God's special treasure!**

Become a barrier breaker

You've all been to the stadium and seen the athletes race. Everyone runs; one wins. Run to win.

All good athletes train hard. They do it for a gold medal that tarnishes and fades. You're after one that's gold eternally.

I don't know about you, but I'm running hard for the finish line. I'm giving it everything I've got. No sloppy living for me!

I'm staying alert and in top condition. I'm not going to get caught napping, telling everyone else all about it and then missing out myself.

I Corinthians 9:24-27 (Message)

Verse 25, in the Amplified says, Now every athlete who goes into training conducts himself temperately and restricts himself in all things. They do it to win a wreath that will soon wither, but we [do it to receive a crown of eternal blessedness] that cannot wither.

Average athletes don't win Gold Medals. Average Christians don't abound in blessings. It's those who excel. It's those who will do not only what is required but they also go beyond. It's those who refuse to quite until they have attained God's best.

Let's set our sights higher in 2012. Let's go for the Gold!