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- *In light of the theme for the hour, we must be intentional to become victorious in the race of life.*

1 Peter 4:1-2

- 1 Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

- 2 that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. NKJV

### **1 Peter 3:18**

- For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, NKJV

*To be victorious in following the example of Jesus, we must purpose in our heart to persevere to the end.*

*Everything originates in the heart. In traveling on this spiritual journey, our faith will be tested to prove its genuineness.*

*A similar process is used in determining the genuineness of gold.*

- *We must:*

### **Go for the Gold**

#### **James 1:12-15**

- 12 Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.
- 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.
- 14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.
- 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. NKJV

### **Five Practical Steps to obtain the GOLD:**

- Praise God for everything
- Patience is a virtue few people experience
- Pray for wisdom
- Purpose before hand
- Promises of God awaits you

### ***Sin will always keep you from focusing on the "GOLD."***

- James 1:13-15
- 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.
- 14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.
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### ***The development of SIN can be traced from verses 13-15 in six ways.***

- Desire for something
- Reason to obtain the object
- Develop a plan to retain the object
- Willing to put forth energy to have it
- Physically move to take pleasure in it
- Flattering the desire by enjoying it

### ***Rewards are mentioned in scripture for being faithful:***

- **Incorruptible Crown**—1 Cor. 9:25, (awarded for self-discipline)
- **Crown of Righteousness**—2 Tim. 4:8, (faithful in looking for Christ to return)
- **Crown of Life**—James 1:12; Rev. 2:10, (those who endured persecution at the cost of their lives)
- **Crown of Glory**—1 Peter 5:4, (for those who served in full-time service)
- **Crown of Rejoicing**—1 Thes. 2:19, (given for faithful witnessing and bearing fruit, John 15:16)