

Runners, Take Your Marks...

The Christian Life has a starting line

John 5:1-9

The Christian life is like a race in many ways, but we are not racing each other.

We receive the prize, eternal life, sins forgiven, and a relationship with God through Jesus Christ, when we cross the starting line.

When we cross the finish line, all the glories of heaven and eternity are made complete.

1. We are Saved by the **Mercy** of God.

Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. —John 5:2

2. We are **incapable** of saving ourselves.

Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. —John 5:3

“You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.” —Revelations 3:17

3. Salvation is a **relationship** not a race.

"Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me." —John 5:7

**Jesus is the track. Jesus is the finish line, Jesus is the starting line.
It's a relationship with God, not a race to heaven.**

4. Our part is to **respond** to the voice of Jesus.

Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." ⁹At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. —John 5:8, 9

Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, "See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you." —John 5:14

Do you want to get well?

Jesus has done His part; it is up to us to respond.

A—Admit you are a sinner in need of God's love.

B—Believe that Jesus is the Son of God who paid the price for your forgiveness.

C—Confess Jesus as your personal Savior and Lord (Leader) of your life.

Memory Verse:

***"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me."* —Revelations 3:20**