• Fighting spirit

1 Corinthians 9:24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.

*1 Corinthians 9:25a Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training.* 

1 Corinthians 9:25b They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

1 Corinthians 9:26 Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly;

1 Corinthians 9:26b I do not fight like a boxer beating the air.

1 Corinthians 9:27 No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

2 Timothy 4:7 <u>I have fought the good fight</u>, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth, there is waiting for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

#### **Conclusion:**

Hebrews 12:3 Consider Him, who endured from sinners such hostility against Himself, so that you may not be weary and lose heart.

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To Step Forward – part 2 Joining God's Team – part 4 January 28, 2024

### PCI Life Vision Statement:

By God's grace, to step forward, as God's man or woman, in my spheres of influence, to serve His purposes, for His glory.

## **Becoming weary in well-doing.**

Galatians 4:11 (NIV) I fear for you, that somehow, I have wasted my efforts on you.

2 Corinthians 4:1 Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart.

Galatians 6:9 <u>Let us not become weary in doing good</u>, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup> Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

1 Corinthians 15:57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>58</sup> Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. <u>Let nothing move</u> <u>you</u>. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

## Facing the monster of discouragement

Joshua 1:7 "<u>Be strong</u> and <u>very courageous</u>. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn
from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.

Joshua 1:8 This Book of the Law shall always be on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

1 Chronicles 28:20 David also said to Solomon his son, "<u>Be</u> strong and courageous, and <u>do the work</u>. <u>Do not be afraid</u>
or discouraged, for the LORD God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the LORD is finished.

# Three Qualities God is Building in Us

• Whole-hearted

Jeremiah 48:10 Cursed is he does the work of the Lord with <u>slackness</u>.

1 Chronicles 28:9 "And you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve him with <u>wholehearted</u> <u>devotion</u> and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches every heart ...Be strong and do the work."

## • Single-minded

1 Chronicles 12:33 ... from Zebulun, fifty thousand experienced soldiers prepared for battle with every type of weapon, to help David <u>with singleness of purpose</u>.

Phil. 3:7 But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything
a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ.

Phil. 3:12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but <u>I press on</u> to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. <sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it.
<u>But one thing I do</u>: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me

heavenward in Christ Jesus.