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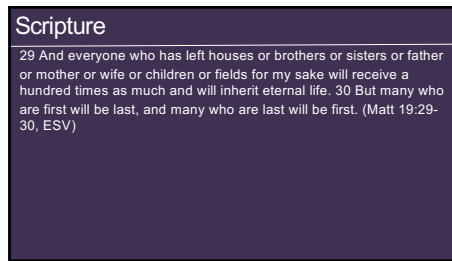
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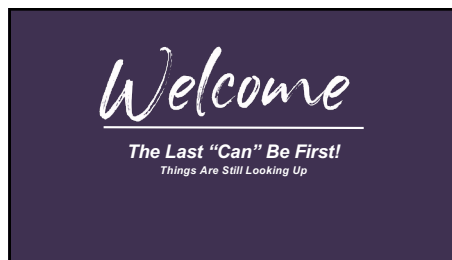
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**You "can" be first when...**

**You run the right race**

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. (Hebrews 12:1-3)

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**The meaning of the word, run**

Bible Sense Lexicon | to strive ⇔ run × +

to strive ⇔ run Actual Size Fit

**to strive ⇔ run** v. — to strive, conceived of as running; perhaps as if running in a race.

strive: to exert strenuous effort; vigorously struggle to achieve a goal, often in the face of difficulties or opposition

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**You "can" be first when...**

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**You have perpetual trust and patience**

7 You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth? 8 That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. 9 "A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough." 10 I am confident in the Lord that you will take no other view. The one who is throwing you into confusion, whoever that may be, will have to pay the penalty. (Gal 5:7-10)

perpetual: never ending or changing; occurring repeatedly; so frequent as to seem endless and uninterrupted

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**You "can" be first when...**

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**Your team is on the same page**

22 "And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. 23 I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. 24 However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me — the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace. (Acts 20:22-24, ESV)

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**Reflection**  
Are you running the right race for your life and in the moments God is trusting you?

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