

Scripture 9:16, 19-end, read up to 6

I'd like to think particularly this morning of those words at the end of v.24, "So run that ye may obtain." The contrast between the idea which se stress so much in the scripture, and the ideas which first seem to be in this verse is very great. So run that ye may obtain. It sounds like one work, like one struggle, like one striving. We read in one place in the book of Hebrews, "Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin." There is a place for striving, there is place for struggling. There is a place for really trying hard in the Christian life. It is not just a bed of roses, and anyone who has ever lived an effective Christian life has learned that it is not. The secret of the Christian life at its most vital point is not a secret of struggling, as you know. It is a secret of resting in the Lord. But if we have struggled against sin, if we have tried our very utmost to do what God wants, and have found ourselves unequal, we are certainly in a far better position to appreciate what it means, that the free grace of God is available to us, than if we have never tried in our own strength to do the things that we cannot accomplish in our own strength. It is the man who has tried, and who has struggled and who has failed, and who then has found the grace of God who realizes what that grace is, who realizes what it means, and of ~~xx~~ course, it is a fact of every phase of life that the balance between rest and work, between relaxing and struggling is a balance which must be attained, or we accomplish ~~nothing~~ nothing. The man who is all tense and stiff and struggling with every bit of his personality to accomplish something, usually gets tied up in such a ~~mx~~ knot that he accomplished nothing. I understand that in running the best runners are quite relaxed, except in those particular muscles which are active and8 $\frac{1}{2}$, and it is very important in accomplishing most anything to have that relaxation in as much of you as possible, and of course, it is the very secret of the Christian life to relax and rest, to rest in what Christ has done, to accept with simple faith the salvation that is given, to know that Jesus paid it all, and there is nothing we can do. Apart from that our salvation is absolutely nothing. Apart from that we cannot be saved. Apart from that we have not the answer to pleasing Christ in any way. We must rest upon him. We must rest in Him. Salvation is entirely by grace.