

FAITH: NUTS AND BOLTS

James 1:19-27

INTRODUCTION: Every year over forty NASCAR races are held all over this great nation. In order to go from high tech companies that each NASCAR team has huge 18-wheelers move both cars and parts from Charlotte, North Carolina all over the country. There are literally tens of millions of dollars invested in the NASCAR haulers. Each truck fill up costs 900 dollars for the diesel fuel at the start of a run and only get 4.5 miles to the gallon. Is all that expense worth it? Only if your goal is to win NASCAR races! Every NASCAR racing team's goal is to win races! Not only the expense of the parts, but the training and re-training of the NASCAR teams is an absolute essential in order to win races.

I. THE HIGH COSTS OF OUR SPIRITUAL RESOURCES!

If NASCAR race teams prepare with such intensity to win races, how much more should we as Christians be busy preparing to win the race our Lord Jesus has called us to run for His glory? Today we will look at some of the tools our Lord has made available to us to run the race set before us and win! 2 Peter 1:3-11. Are you diligently in training to win your race?

II. THE HOLY SPIRIT

Without the presence of Jesus Christ we can do nothing! John 15:5; Colossians 1:27. Is the Holy Spirit more than just a doctrine in your life? Do we know how to be filled with the Holy Spirit? Ephesians 5:18; Ephesians 4:30; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11.

III. THE BIBLE

It is sad to say but in most Christian tool boxes, the dustiest tool they have is their Bible! Matthew 4:4. Do you know how to study the Bible for yourself? 2 Timothy 2:15. With your knowledge of God's Word can you distinguish between true and false doctrine? Acts 17:11. Do you know the importance of memorizing Scripture portions? Matthew 4:1-11; Psalm 119:9, 11.

IV. PRAYER

This is a very powerful tool for the righteous person! James 5:16. Sadly this powerful tool too often goes unused by Christians. 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Luke 11:5-10; Hebrews 4:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 5:11.

V. FELLOWSHIP

Christianity is a team endeavor. Are you an active part of a local team? Ephesians 4:32; Romans 12:10; 2 Corinthians 8:3-4; Galatians 5:13; Romans 15:14; Ephesians 4:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 5:11. The resources our Lord has given us and our ability to use them skillfully are as fundamental to our success in the Christians life as are the tools and skills of a NASCAR team. As we go out to race for our Lord we need to prepare with not only the tools our Lord has given to us, but also we need to increase our skills

