
**RUNNING TO THE
IMPOSSIBLE**

by

MARIOS ELLINAS

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The name satan and related names are not capitalized. The author chooses not to acknowledge him, even to the point of violating grammatical rules.

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Running to the Impossible

By Marios Ellinas

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this book to Danielle—my wonderful wife, my best friend, and my greatest source of encouragement.

...and to Christos, Caleb, and Chloe—the coolest kids on Planet Earth! You inspire me and keep me dreaming. There is no limit to what God will do in you and through you. I love you!

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A huge I LOVE YOU to all my brothers and sisters in Christ at *Valley Shore Assembly of God*. This book is a product of their great courage and faith in the face of impossibilities.

I am eternally grateful to Rev. C. Ronald Bradley for leading me to Christ, pouring his life in me, and teaching me by example the supreme commandment, love.

I bow my heart with thanks to Rev. and Mrs. W. Dwayne Harper for loving me, mentoring me,

and giving me the opportunity to serve in God's Kingdom.

I am grateful to Jason Westerfield for his friendship and support. I thank him for his willingness to contribute the Foreword.

I salute all my friends who read the book and offered their insightful feedback and endorsements. I love and appreciate them!

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A big thank you to my friend, Kathy Hartley, for undertaking the monumental task of editing this book. I especially thank her for being so gracious, patient, and kind with areas that needed correction or improvement.

ENDORSEMENTS

Spend any kind of time with Marios Ellinas and you will immediately encounter a frontline leader in this generation who hungers for the God of the impossible to reveal Himself in everyday situations. The message that flows from Marios' heart is that of contending relentlessly to know God more intimately, which results in God's Spirit flowing through him in greater measure. As he delivers this proclamation of running *to* and *through* the impossible, it flows from a vessel that is filled with the integrity of this revelation and from a heart that is surrendered to the purposes of God. This message matches the messenger. Marios is leading a culture of people who are becoming more comfortable with the "uncomfortable," the situations that push us into greater realms of faith, thus allowing for God to do above all we could ever imagine.

Mark DeJesus
Founder - Turning Hearts Ministries

Looking for excitement, courage, and motivation? Then simply pick up this masterpiece that has been penned by one of God's up and coming generals. Pastor Marios has been living this title "Running to the Impossible" in his daily walk with God. Spend any time with the author and you will be fused with a sense of urgency to go on a deeper journey with the Spirit of God. As you read this work you will quickly recognize the desire of the writer to help each believer understand that "Greater is He who is within thee," than anything that could ever come against us. Every student, author, teacher, minister, and five-fold ministry gift will be stirred after reading this inspiring work. Enjoy your pursuit.

Pastor Reginald Stewart
International Family Worship Center

In God's eyes, now is the time for great dreams and large visions. Thankfully, passing away are the days of mediocre men and limited thinking. Pastor Marios Ellinas declares with boldness and spiritual authority, the great dream God has for His people, and the great people God has in His dream. A prophetic must read message to all God's people!

**Erik A. Kudlis, President and CEO, Erik's Design
Build Associates, Inc.**

It's been said that a man with fear dies a thousand deaths every day, but the man with courage, dies just once. Marios Ellinas is a man with great courage. *Running to the Impossible* was written out of a living testimony of perseverance and faith. Many times during the reading I would stop to *listen* to the words written on the page before me. Marios has revealed treasures from Scripture to bring clarity and skill for overcoming the impossibilities of life. *Running to the Impossible* is a "NOW" book, relevant, wisdom-filled, and prayerfully written. If you know that God has a calling on your life but lack the courage to walk it out, this is a *must* read.

Gina Blaze
New England Prayer Center

We live in a dream-stealing world where our hopes and dreams are put on trial through the eyes of men. We are constantly told what we can or cannot accomplish, what is possible and what is not. In this phenomenal book, Pastor Marios will motivate and equip you with the Truth about your own dreams and aspirations - that *all* things from God are possible for those who believe. He will inspire and encourage you that faith will replace your fear when you simply take that first step toward running to your "impossible". And then...watch for what God does in your life!

J.D. Porcelli
Entrepreneur

As I was reading a copy of "Running to the Impossible", I began to think about when I met Marios fifteen years ago. All the time I have known him, I have found him to be a man hungry for God. This book demonstrates how through determination we can accomplish the dreams and visions God puts on our hearts. Marios is a man with "iron in his soul". This is his story; he has lived it. If he can "Run to the Impossible," so can you!

Doug Eccles
Holy Ghost Celebration Ministries

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FOREWORD

“Running to the Impossible” is a hallmark tribute to God and what He can do through those who believe Him. This book by Marios Ellinas will capture your heart’s passion to confront impossibilities head on, and it will stir your faith to achieve greater things than you have ever imagined.

Marios has done a magnificent job in taking the classic epic battle of David and Goliath and making it a contemporary story we can all relate to. Any person reading “Running to the Impossible” will be challenged to persevere no matter what seemingly impossible difficulties come his/her way. Marios has very graphically portrayed step by step what King David, and you and I, deal with when impossibilities are in front of us. He has also shown us how to properly handle these situations with wisdom, so we can finish with success.

Every person will face impossibilities. The question remains, “How will we respond?” If we respond correctly we will see God’s power work on our behalf, and we will experience the benefits and rewards for faith and a courageous heart.

Running to the Impossible

This book will challenge your fears, and push you to the faith and boldness that lead to greatness despite the odds. There is nothing impossible with God, and Marios has shown us that there is nothing impossible for us when we walk with God. The same God that worked for King David to defeat Goliath is the same supernatural God working on our behalf.

I have had the greatest pleasure of knowing and walking through life with Marios and Danielle Ellinas. I marvel at how this isn't just a book Marios has written, but it is an invitation and a window that peers into the Ellinas' life story. They have continually prayed and believed God for the impossible, despite the size of the giants they were facing.

I have watched how God has always come through for them. I have also personally witnessed supernatural miracles take place through their lives as they trust God to deliver, heal, protect, and provide for other people. Their prayers get through to heaven and have results. This couple runs to the impossible with great tenacity of faith and boldness, exemplifying courage to the rest of us, while at the same time revealing true humility, love, and sincerity of heart toward others. True love gives generously; true love is courageous and brave. I have had the delight to witness these virtues so eloquently presented in their lives.

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We must believe, not back down, and run full speed into our walls of resistance; and we must do so until we break through. This book will stir you up to the point where you can't sit back any more and tolerate the giants in your life. After reading it, you too will be motivated to conquer impossibilities and walk in victory. One thing that is impossible is to read this book and not get an impartation of God's Spirit of courage!

Jason T. Westerfield
Founder and President
Kingdom Reality Ministries
www.kingdomreality.com

INTRODUCTION

My first memorable confrontation against the impossible occurred in the summer of 1988. I grew up on the island of Cyprus. At the age of eighteen, every Cypriot male serves his country through mandatory military conscription. From a young age, knowing that one day I too would be a soldier, I aspired to join the most renowned and best-trained branch of the army, the Green Berets.

I kept my dream to myself for many years, but during my freshman year in high school, I began to share it with friends and family. With the exception of my parents, who always believed in me and encouraged me, everyone who heard of my plans responded, "*Impossible!*"

In their eyes, I was too thin, too weak, too sensitive and too tender-hearted to survive Green Beret boot camp and endure the rigors of Special Forces life. Moreover, hundreds of individuals tried out for the Green Berets every year. More than half would fail the fitness test, and only a few hundred would be picked from those who passed.

"You, a Green Beret? Impossible!" they said.

Running to the Impossible

Determined to live my dream and prove my critics wrong, I joined a track team, participated in team sports, and trained with weights for three years. I developed relationships with several former Green Berets and asked them hundreds of questions. I read books and watched films about Green Berets. I simply did my best to prepare physically and emotionally for Special Forces training.

In June of 1988, only a few days after graduating high school, I enlisted in the Cyprus armed forces. I signed up for the Green Berets and lined up for the ominous fitness test.

Along with multiple other hopefuls, I ran laps, did push-ups and pull-ups, and performed various drills. In every area of testing I ranked in the top three. Several Green Beret drill sergeants had looked my way favorably; some had even made positive comments about my performance. At the end of the fitness test, I was confident I would be chosen!

The next day around noontime, the barracks loudspeakers came to life with the names of the recruits who had been selected for Green Beret training. Many names were called, but mine was not one of them.

I was devastated. My life-dream was slipping away. For years I had heard the word "impossible" regarding my ambition. Through research, train-

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ing, and the preparation of my heart and body, I had managed to block out those negative voices and had kept my dream alive. But in that moment, when it was obvious I had not been picked, a door seemed to have shut on me with a thud of finality. On that door hung a sign saying, "Impossible. Especially for YOU – Do not enter!"

I watched as one comrade after another packed his belongings and headed towards the transport trucks for Green Beret boot camp. Rejection and limitation screamed at me, *"Too skinny! Too weak! The officers saw right through you. They knew you didn't have it in you."*

When the last man had boarded the bus and the doors shut, a renewed resolve arose in me, which I will never forget.

I gritted my teeth and spoke the words, *"It's not over!"*

I found a friend from my school who had also done well on the fitness test, but had likewise not been selected. I informed him of my plan, and together we marched across a large soccer field to the officers' clubhouse. We knocked on the door, and when a young soldier answered, we stated the purpose for our "visit."

"We want to speak with the highest ranking Green Beret officer, right now. We have an urgent message for him."

Running to the Impossible

The soldier told us to wait outside. After a few minutes, an imposing Green Beret major came out. With his stature, his physical appearance, his demeanor, and even his voice, the officer standing before us personified everything I had expected to find in a Green Beret.

He walked right up to us, got in our faces, and demanded an explanation. Not only had we disturbed his afternoon rest, we had also broken the chain of command by going directly to a high-ranking officer such as himself.

With penetrating eyes, formidable posture, and great authority, he asked, *"What on earth do you want?"* (I'm paraphrasing a bit.)

My friend spoke first. He told the major that we strongly desired to be Green Berets, we felt we had been wronged during the selection process, and consequently, we had resolved to escape from the barracks that night so we could hitchhike our way to the Green Beret training camp.

"We will find our way to your unit, Sir," my friend contended, "and we will wait outside until you take us in and train us."

First the Major grinned, then he laughed, and finally he frowned. He moved so close to us that his face was only inches away. In the most intimidating tone of voice, he said:

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"You go AWOL (Absent Without Official Leave) from this place, and you'll be arrested, court-martialed, and most likely serve time in jail. Now get out of my face, and get back to your company." With that stern warning, he turned away and walked towards the clubhouse.

Before I had time to process it, before I could even think it through, it happened:

"I don't think you understand, Sir!" I yelled at the top of my lungs.

"We will jump this wall tonight, and you may arrest us, and you may court-martial us, and the government may throw us in jail, but when our time is served, Sir, we will find our way to the Green Beret training camp and wait outside until you take us in and train us. I don't think you understand just how badly we want this...Sir!"

The officer turned around, fixed his eyes on me, and looked me up and down for what seemed an eternity. Then he spoke in a shockingly calm tone.

"If I could train five men with your kind of heart, surely we would prevail over any enemy."

That evening my friend and I were on a transport vehicle, heading to Green Beret boot camp with a personal commendation from the officer, who turned out to be a highly respected and very influential Green Beret!

Running to the Impossible

During the long ride to the military base, I couldn't stop thinking about how my childhood dream was coming true. I would train with the best and be one of them. I would grow in physical strength and ability. I would proudly wear the Green Beret uniform. I would become a warrior. I had never been so ecstatic!

It took years to understand what had really transpired that day. Deep inside me something had shifted. I had gone toe to toe with an impossibility that had plagued me for years, and I had won. I had pushed aside fear and limitation, and I had conquered new territory!

In many ways, the incident outside the officers' clubhouse launched me into my destiny – not just as a warrior in the Cyprus Special Forces, but also as a soldier for the God of the Bible.

Having served in both armies, I have discovered that they are very different in multiple ways; however, there is one common quality that makes all the difference for survival and significance: a willingness to risk everything and run towards the impossible.