

Faster, Higher, Stronger – How Can You Help Others Come to Faith?

“Faster, Higher, Stronger” has been the Olympic motto for years. The goal of an Olympic athlete is to be faster, higher or stronger than anyone else in the world. The pursuit dominates an athlete's life for many years as they train in hopes of earning a spot in the field of competition.

So, what happens when the Olympic Games are complete? Life goes on following the closing ceremonies. Some athletes will continue to participate in their sport but every athlete will have benefited from the focus and determination it took to make the Olympic team. The preparation for competition is really preparation for God's plan for your life.

We tend to be short-sighted in our vision for the future. The athlete is training to fulfill a dream, whether competing in the Olympics or in pursuit of a championship ring. We set goals for other aspects of our life and celebrate when those are accomplished. Often, we can't see beyond that accomplishment, but God can. It is impossible for us to realize the bigger plan God has for us.

Achieving victory is just the next step in a divine plan for our future. While we have immediate goals God has an ultimate goal for us.

Ultimately the closing ceremony comes and the athlete can get on with the rest of their life. Accomplishing a particular goal gives you confidence, enabling you to accomplish more down the line.

I like to listen to television interviews of the winning athletes, because it reveals their motivation. Are the words out of their mouth filled with “I's? Or, do they focus on “We” or the “team.” I hope for a comment of “Thanks be to God” or “Give God all the glory.” It is OK to have a combination of motivational factors, but those who acknowledge God's role in their success compete with gratitude to the Heavenly Father. They have the most potential of using the medal platform as a springboard for sharing God's Word. *In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16).*

The recognition of a successful athlete or public figure gives you a unique opportunity that people are more likely to listen to what you say. They see your success and want to be more like you. God isn't focused on what you do on the public stage, but He takes special note if it opens doors to share His Word. He doesn't assure victory on the playing field but He does ensure victory on leading people to Christ. After the competition is over, God's real purpose for your life begins.

The question is: What are you going to do with the opportunities God gives you? How can you build on the successes you have to share God's Word? How can God work through you to make a difference in the world? The only way to know the answers to these questions is be open to what God has in store for you.

God wants to help you go faster, higher and stronger if you do it in His name. His Heavenly desire is for you to be stronger in the faith so you can help others look higher for their motivation and purpose in life.

Prayer: Heavenly Father. We thank you Lord for the successes we experience in our life, which prepare us to more effectively share your Word and victory with others. Amen.



Olympic champion Kathleen Baker