



## Paris 2024

I've just finished watching most of the closing ceremonies from the Olympics. What talent some people have as they twist and turn, leap and hop, or dash, lift, and/or run. My talents certainly do not include any of those skills. The Lord was so gracious, however, and provided each of His children with different talents, skills, abilities, interests, and even looks. We are unique human beings, but He loves us all, especially if we love him in return.

The challenge today is to double check that we have fully focused on using our uniqueness for His service and to celebrate Him. Our Olympians most generally seem to work together as a team (fellow athletes) but also, and this is the wonderful part, work for their own home country. Of course there are a few exceptions, but the team celebrates HOME.

What about you, a member of God's team. Have you remembered to work with all the followers in your community or even stop and pick up a fallen/hurt/discouraged member? What about that hug, while at the same time celebrating with arms in the air, smiles on the face, and cheers aloud to the Lord as the community of believers remember He is in charge? Our athletes have suffered through weeks of work outs day after day, after hours, after tears and torn muscles, after heartbreak and weariness – yet they still cheer and celebrate at the end.

When is the last time you cheered, thanked, or smiled at some member of the family of God, as he or she shared his or her talent in some small or public way. What about the quiet person who assures that the building is tidy and sparkling prior to a service each and every week, through sun, fun, and snow? Have you dropped a little note to the church secretary, grandmother who comes faithfully to the nursery and quietly rocks the screaming ten month old, or to the person behind the sound equipment each week that allows you to hear the message from the pastor? Have you taken time to collect the plastic grocery bags and bring to the church to help create mats for homeless people around the world?

It doesn't matter what you do to help spread the Word – It matters that you do something. The members of the US basket ball team each had to stretch and work at fever pitch to finally get the gold. Even those on the bench had the responsibility of cheering and encouraging those working on the floor. Cheers may be public words of appreciation, but a simple smile and word of thanks, especially if you are specific in your thanks, is equally renewing of spirit for a laborer in the Lord's vineyard.

The Paris Olympics are now history but His Kingdom is still functioning, so no time to go into retirement. Ignite your spirit. Crank up your skills. Go job hunting if you're currently a wall flower. Even simple dandelions brighten a yard or cheer a shut-in. So, go now. Hop outside and find a bunch and share. Then, remember your "Home Country." We are heaven bound. This World is Not Our Home. We are temporary residents, so the final celebration for Christians world wide will not be the country in which we reside while alive, but the home where God is preparing for us. Paul says it so well in II Corinthians 5:1 -

*"For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house (home) in heaven, not built by human hands."*

Prepare For Our Eternal Home Celebration With The King of Kings