



The weekly newsletter article of Parkside Chapel

LIFENEWS

For God's Glory



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Eric Liddell, a devout Scottish Christian, was known for his athletic ability, unwavering faith, and dedication to Jesus. His commitment to Christ and valiant races in the 1924 Summer Olympics earned him widespread recognition. His remarkable performance in the 400-meter race astonished the crowd as he sprinted out of the blocks, accelerating so quickly that two racers stumbled, trying to keep up with him. He won the race, setting a world record!

In 1981, Eric rose to posthumous fame through the movie ***Chariots of Fire***, with his personal story captivating the hearts of a new generation. The movie recounted how he explained why he was a runner:

***"I believe God made me for a purpose,
but He also made me fast.
And when I run, I feel His pleasure."***

Stop and think about that for a moment. "I believe God made me for a purpose, and He also made me fast. And when I run, I feel His pleasure."

When do you sense God's pleasure? Is it in achieving public accolades and recognition, or is it in a quiet moment out of the public eye? Have you had the deep sense of God cheering you on from the Heavenly Grandstand?

Colossians 3:23-24 says, *"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."*

We are not all called to be Eric Liddell, but God uses each of us in unique ways during different seasons of life. In 1996, I left a fast-paced ministry position where I had worked for ten years so I could stay at home with our newborn son. Initially, to prove that I was accomplishing something, I would mark my days with every little task carefully noted on a yellow legal pad so I could measure my daily success. Silly, I know, but until that point, I had marked my success by what I accomplished and the projects I could mark off of a legal pad.

During that season of my life, there were sleepless nights, piles of laundry, dirty diapers, three sick kids, little squabbles, giggles... all sprinkled with joy. But there were many days I felt invisible in this world, and I wondered if God was using me at all.

Serving Jesus doesn't necessarily mean the crowds on social media will applaud us. Public acclaim isn't a good measure of success and can often deter us from God's purpose for our lives. Our goal is to please God... to walk with Him... and to do whatever He has called us to do, ***for His glory!***

What is it that causes you to feel God's pleasure? It may not be running in the Olympics! But whatever God calls you to do... do it with all your heart. Rick Renner puts it like this, "There is an applause that will last for all of eternity, and that is the applause that comes from God Himself."

Eric Liddell said, "As Christians, I challenge you. Have a great aim—have a high standard—make Jesus your ideal ... make Him an ideal not merely to be admired but also to be followed."

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In 1925, a year after he ran in the Olympic games, Liddell returned to China to do missionary work with his father. In 1945, during World War II, he died of an inoperable brain tumor while in a Japanese internment camp.

I can only imagine that as he crossed his life's finish line, he flung his head backward and gazed toward Heaven as he heard, "Well done, good and faithful servant..." (Matthew 25:23).

According to a fellow missionary, Liddell's last words uttered on this earth were, "It's complete surrender," in reference to how he had given his life to God.

May we live our lives for God's glory in all we do, and in doing this, we will sense His great pleasure.

Sources:

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