

What motivates an Olympic athlete?

Why do they endure years of training: special diets, physical preparation, mental conditioning and so much more?

Today, due to close-up TV coverage, we see the expression on the face of the winner at the very moment of victory.

They're elated! *Jubilant!*

References in the leaflet are from the Bible:

1. Hebrews chapter 12 verse 2
2. Romans chapter 3 verse 23
3. Ephesians chapter 2 verse 3
4. John chapter 3 verse 36
5. John chapter 19 verse 30

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Why do they do it?

That moment - and all that follows - is why they do it!

No Olympic competitor goes into the games thinking it will cost them their life. If they did, their motivation to compete would have to be very different and of a much greater kind.

The Bible says of Jesus Christ "...who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame..."¹. Death by crucifixion was cruel and painful.

Why did he do it?

His motivation was very different to the Olympian. It was His incredible love for humankind whom he wanted to rescue.

The Bible makes it clear that no one has any merit in God's eyes, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."² "...gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts...we were by nature objects of wrath."³

Our flawed nature makes us the objects of God's retribution. *We need help!*

What Jesus did on the cross that day was to bear, *in our place*, the full force of God's just anger! This makes it possible for God to forgive us for our sins, because someone else (Jesus) has taken all the punishment already.

If we have faith to accept that Jesus suffered on our behalf, we have complete forgiveness and eternal life, as this quote from the Bible says: "Whoever believes in the Son *has eternal life*, but whoever rejects the Son *will not see life*, for God's wrath remains on him."⁴



As Jesus died on the cross, the last thing he said was "It is finished."⁵ Some records of the event make it clear that he said this in a loud voice:

"It... is... finished!"

That wasn't a whisper of defeat. It was a shout of victory!

"The joy that was set before Him" was that you would believe that He gave His life to rescue you. You are why he did it! Why don't you thank him now?