

RUN TO WIN “INSPIRED BY GOD”

GAME PLAN: “INSPIRED BY GOD”

PRE-GAME WARM-UP: Who is the most inspirational person in your life? Why? How does God inspire YOU in your life?

TIP OFF: Our goal is to learn that God wants us to look to Him for inspiration and direction in our lives.

GAME TIME: Have you ever noticed that at a sports awards banquet that the last trophy or award that is given out is usually the “Most Inspirational Player” award? The coach will usually say something like this: “And now for tonight’s last award, we will present what we feel is the most important award, the “Most Inspirational Player” award, which is voted on by you players to honor your teammate who inspired you to be the best you can be. Tonight’s winner is...”

Just as we can be inspired by a fellow teammate, a coach, a teacher, our parents or others, God also wants to be an inspiration in our lives. He desires us to look to Him for inspiration, direction, meaning and purpose. He wants to inspire us to greatness on and off the field or court. He loves it when we recognize Him and His amazing love and grace in our lives. He wants us to recognize that He has blessed each one of us in incredible ways.

I Peter 4:10 says, *“God has given each of you special abilities. Be sure to use them to help each other, passing on to others, God’s many wonderful blessings.”* Each one of us has special and unique gifts that God has given us. These gifts are supposed to be used to show others God and how He has impacted our lives. How inspiring is it to know that the Lord has uniquely gifted you and equipped you to honor and glorify Him?

God desires for us to be inspired by Him and to also lift and inspire those around us as well. If inspired, we will also be enthusiastic. Ralph Waldo Emerson said, “Nothing great was ever accomplished without enthusiasm.” Ask God to fill you with a passion and enthusiasm for Him and for life. Enthusiasm is contagious...pass it on! Allow Him to inspire you to be the best you can be in all areas of your life. He wants to strengthen and support us along the way.

II Chronicles 16:9 it says, *“For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him.”* The word ‘commitment’ means “to connect oneself or entrust oneself for safe keeping”. This is what God wants us to do. As we are fully committed or entrusted to Him, He will strengthen and strongly support us!

William Carey wrote, “Expect great things from God, attempt great things for God.” As we place our hope and faith in the Lord to lift and inspire us, God will allow us to attempt great things for Him.

Struggles and trials will still come, but we can know that God is there to lift us and inspire us to overcome any and all challenges or obstacles we may face. His word says in Proverbs 3:5-6, *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight”*.

The Apostle Paul encountered numerous obstacles and challenges that included being beaten, shipwrecked, snake bit, stoned, imprisoned and left for dead to name a few! Through it all he remained faithful and inspired and wrote most of the New Testament while chained in a dark, dreary dungeon. His inspiration? Jesus Christ! He wrote in Philippians 4:13, *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”* That is true faithfulness and inspiration.

God wants us to be individuals who are “Inspired by God”!

POST GAME WRAP –UP:

- Q.** Do you know any athletes who rely on God for inspiration and strength to excel in their sport?
- Q.** What is one way we can be used of God to inspire others?
- Q.** Comment on the William Carey quote: “Expect great things from God, attempt great things for God.” Do you find this inspiring?
- Q.** What is one thing you can do to allow God to be more of an inspiration in your life?
- Q.** Why are inspirational leaders or players so vital to a team’s success?

WIND SPRINTS: Memorize Philippians 4:13: *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”*

RUN TO WIN OUTREACH www.runtowin.org 425.776.2946 mike@runtowin.org