


Finishing The Course






I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 2 Tim 4:7 (KJV)

Fundamental Principles of Olympism

1. Olympism is a philosophy of life, exalting and combining in a balanced whole the qualities of body, will and mind. Blending sport with culture and education, Olympism seeks to create a way of life based on the joy of effort, the educational value of good example and respect for universal fundamental ethical principles.
2. The goal of Olympism is to place sport at the service of the harmonious development of man, with a view to promoting a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity.
3. The Olympic Movement is the concerted, organised, universal and permanent action, carried out under the supreme authority of the IOC, of all individuals and entities who are inspired by the values of Olympism. It covers the five continents. It reaches its peak with the bringing together of the world's athletes at the great sports festival, the Olympic Games. Its symbol is five interlaced rings. 
4. The practice of sport is a human right. Every individual must have the possibility of practising sport, without discrimination of any kind and in the Olympic spirit, which requires mutual understanding with a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play. The organisation, administration and management of sport must be controlled by independent sports organisations.
5. Any form of discrimination with regard to a country or a person on grounds of race, religion, politics, gender or otherwise is incompatible with belonging to the Olympic Movement.
6. Belonging to the Olympic Movement requires compliance with the Olympic Charter and recognition by the IOC.



The 2006 winter Olympics were held from February 10th through February 26th in Torino, Italy. The top 5 medal count from these games is listed below:

TOTAL MEDAL COUNT: TOP 5				
Country	G	S	B	Total
 Germany	11	12	6	29
 United States	9	9	7	25
 Canada	7	10	7	24
 Austria	9	7	7	23
 Russia	8	6	8	22

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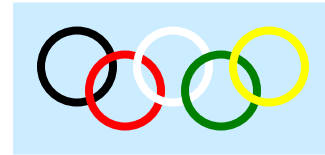
Christian Olympics - Running The Race

The Olympics demonstrate many athletes who have dedicated their lives to being “swifter, stronger, faster”. As Christians, do we demonstrate the same qualities in our Christian walk? Do we run the race set before us with the determination we should? Do we rejoice as a strong man prepared to run a race?

As we run the Christian race, what should our motto be? What is the Christian Charter? What about the Christian Olympic Torch? How about the Christian Olympic Rings?

Christian Olympic Rings

The color of the five Christian Olympic Rings are:
Black=Sin, Red=Blood of Christ, White=Forgiveness of Sin, Green=Christian Growth, Gold=Heavenly Calling



Psalms 19:1-6 (KJV)

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.
- 2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.
- 3 There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.
- 4 Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,
- 5 Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, **and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race.**
- 6 His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

1 Corinthians 9:23-24 (KJV)

- 23 And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you.
- 24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

Hebrews 12:1-4 (KJV)

- 1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,
- 2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.
- 3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.
- 4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

The secular Olympic motto is "Citius, Altius, Fortius" in Latin which is universally accepted as meaning "Swifter, Higher, Stronger." As Christians, we look not within our selves to achieve these goals but we look to Christ Jesus who is the eternal Gold medallist in this event! The Christian Olympic Motto of “Swifter, Higher, Stronger” is only achieved in Christ, Jesus.

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Isaiah 40:28-31 (KJV)

- 28 Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.
29 He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.
30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:
31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Swifter

Proverbs 6:16-19 (KJV)

- 16 These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:
17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,
18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be **swift** in running to mischief,
19 A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

Romans 3:10-18 (KJV)

- 10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:
11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.
12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.
13 Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:
14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:
15 Their feet are **swift** to shed blood:
16 Destruction and misery are in their ways:
17 And the way of peace have they not known:
18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.

James 1:19-24 (KJV)

- 19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be **swift** to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:
20 For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.
21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.
22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.
23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:
24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

Hebrews 4:12 (KJV)

- 12 For the word of God is **quick**, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

2 Timothy 4:1-5 (KJV)

- 1 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the **quick** and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;
2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.
3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;
4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.
5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

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Proverbs 4:10-15 (KJV)

- 10 Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many.
11 I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths.
12 When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble.
13 Take **fast** hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life.
14 Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men.
15 Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away.

Higher

Ps 148:13 (KJV)

- 13 Let them praise the name of the LORD: for his name alone is excellent; his glory is **above** the earth and heaven.

Ps 8:1 (KJV)

- 1 O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory **above** the heavens.

Luke 1:30-33 (KJV)

- 30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.
31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.
32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the **Highest**: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:
33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Isa 55:7-11 (KJV)

- 7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.
9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways **higher** than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.
10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:
11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Heb 7:22-27 (KJV)

- 22 By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.
23 And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death:
24 But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.
25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.
26 For such an **high** priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;
27 Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.

Eph 1:15-23 (KJV)

- 15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,
16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;
17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

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- 18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,
19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,
20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,
21 **Far above** all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:
22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,
23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Stronger

1 Cor 1:25-31 (KJV)

- 25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is **stronger** than men.
26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:
27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;
28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:
29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.
30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:
31 That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

Ps 33:16-18 (KJV)

- 16 There is no king saved by the multitude of an host: a mighty man is not delivered by much **strength**.
17 An horse is a vain thing for safety: neither shall he deliver any by his great strength.
18 Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy;

Jer 9:23-24 (KJV)

- 23 Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches:
24 But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.

Finishing The Course - "Swifter, Higher, Stronger."

2 Timothy 4:7-8 (KJV)

- 7 I have fought a good fight, I have *finished my course*, I have kept the faith:
8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

"So then, The Faith (cometh) out-of hearing, and the hearing through or by The Word of Christ (God)" Romans. 10:17

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“The Faith” is that body of truth, God-given (revealed), unto the recipient for Faith-Obedience. At the same time, the believers' response in faith-obedience demonstrates their personal faith and commitment to run the race.

For example: "By faith, Noah being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house..." Heb. 11:7. In other words, the faith given (revealed) of God unto Noah was saving faith unto him and his household. Noah's faith-obedience in building the ark demonstrated his personal faith unto salvation. Today, building an ark in the context of our time saves no one. The circumstances of Noah's time, when put into today's context, demonstrate how we should respond to our calling.

The faith concerning our walk in The Mystery (Eph. 2:10, 4:1-7; Phil. 2:12, 13; Col. 2:6) is how we should commit ourselves to “finish the course” and having done so... we will have “kept the faith”. When this is accomplished and we appear with Christ in glory, there will be that gold medal ceremony but instead of a ribbon, a crown of righteousness is awarded.