

in one place to achieve that level of performance. So where would you put your focus?

Jesus cautions us about distraction. *What does it profit a man, if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Or what would a man give in exchange for his soul?*

Becoming the most successful business person, the world's greatest historian, or the best craftsman in the world, all require hours, days, months and years of dedication. Attempting to be the best, willingness to set everything else aside in the pursuit of the goal, requires us to step back and consider the implications.

Now, before it looks like I am condemning all Olympians to hell, let me pull back a bit. If one has balance in life, a solid spiritual foundation, it is possible to have success in secular areas of life. The danger of extremism is what I am cautioning about.

That an athlete makes a religious comment about thanking God for their win, after a competition does not make them necessarily religious or spiritual. In the same way that thanking mom after a victory doesn't make an inconsiderate, selfish son a good child. Lifestyle must give support to the claim.

But the question remains, what would you choose to be the best at? Where is your focus? How does your life align with the profession of your lips?

Remember, one day our race will be over. Crowns will be awarded, and decisions reviewed. That day is coming, so how are you competing?

Grace and Peace,

Carl



Where belonging to God means belonging to each other.

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St John Church of Christ
A Family of God

August 14, 2016

I don't have the patience to sit and watch the Olympics because I get frustrated by the number of commercials. Janet enjoys watching the gymnastics so that is usually what we see.

This year we saw a few Michael Phelps swimming races, Simone Biles win the all-around gymnastics and Katie Ledecky win the 800m freestyle. When athletes are as dominant as these people, it is breathtaking to watch. It is easy to describe them as naturally talented, and there is a measure of truth to that. However, listening to Simone Biles describe never going to high school football games, school dances, or any extra-curricular activities because she was in the gym practicing, one begins to get the idea of just how focused these "natural athletes" really are. I don't recommend such focus on recreation things to anyone, because it eliminates huge portions of important elements of life. Such tunnel vision can make the athlete the world's greatest swimmer, the greatest gymnast in the world, or the best archery shot in the world... but then what?

If you got to pick, out of all of the things to be, what would it be? Boxer, baker, banjo player? You see, you have to pick. No one is the greatest swimmer that ever lived and the world's greatest gymnast. Your focus must go

SUNDAY: Leisure Homestead Service—9:30 am
Bible Study for all ages—10:00 am
Worship Service—10:45 am
Afternoon Service—1:15 pm
WEDNESDAY: Adult Bible Study—7:30 pm
Youth Group—7:30 pm (@ Carl's)
ELDERS: Richard Breensing, Teddy Gingrich, Loyd Ratts,
Terry Sallee, George Shelton
DEACONS: Jerry Kinnamon, Jon Mansel
TREASURER: Richard Breensing

WORSHIP ORDER FOR AUGUST 14, 2016

SONG LEADER: Jerry Kinnamon
GATHERING SONG: No. 266—Majesty
WELCOME: Tom Turner
SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 66:1-2 (Chase Mansel)
SONGS: No. 745—Humble Yourself
No. 123—The Steadfast Love of the Lord
No. 578—We Will Glorify
No. 555—Seek Ye First
No. 791—On Bended Knee
PRAYER: Tom Turner
SONG: No. 356—I Believe In Jesus
COMMUNION: Chris Mansel
Teddy Gingrich
Orrin Feril
Fred Johnson
MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril
SONG: No. 753—Farther Along (vs 1, 2)
LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)
SONG: No. 924—Just As I Am (vs 1)
PRAYER: Joe Cornwell

(CCLI #2440129)

WELCOME VISITORS

We are pleased you have joined us in worship and hope that you will come again! Please stay for our potluck lunch today.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Jorja Blakeslee—Aug 19
Gayle Byer—Aug 20

School starts this week in Stafford and Macksville. Remember the Teachers, Students and all those involved in the school system in your prayers during this time.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Best Wishes to Zach and Vanessa Marks, who were married here yesterday in a private ceremony!

Church website: www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

Gladys Hornbaker—treatment for a mass in her lung
Alex Garcia (neighbor of Stan & Orvalee) - brain cyst; was scheduled to have surgery last week in Kansas City
Annie Kent (Lupe Hudson's niece) - cancer
Glennys Sallabedra (Tom's mother)
Eldon Ivy (Marilyn's brother) - hospice care, and his wife, Sheryl
David Ivy (Marilyn's brother) and his wife, Kathy
Marilyn Sprawka (Don Rugan's sister) - cancer
Jenny Walker (Carol's sister)
Sharon Goode Ames—lung cancer
Roger Dick—ongoing cancer treatments
John Laudick (Marla's brother-in-law)
Jonathan Batten - cancer
Theo Birkett (Tara's mother)
Jim Soukup (Gingrich's son-in-law [Shari's husband])
Bonnie Guthrie (Kay's mother) - now on Hospice Care at Leisure Homestead in Stafford
Myron Breensing (Richard's father) - Leisure Homestead
Laura Wyatt—Kenwood Plaza
Vic & Phyllis Staub - Kenwood Plaza

ISAIAH 66:1-2

- 1 Thus says the Lord:
"Heaven is my throne,
and the earth is my footstool;
what is the house that you would build for me,
and what is the place of my rest?"
- 2 All these things my hand has made,
and so all these things came to be,
declares the Lord.
But this is the one to whom I will look:
he who is humble and contrite in spirit