



Monday Matters

August 11, 2014

Training for a Win

Can fall be right around the corner? I think it is approaching quickly and listening to the news confirms my suspicions. Coaches are being interviewed with every imaginable question on how their fall football teams will do. One question posed to a coach was how he was going to have a winning season. His answer seemed simple, but given human nature this game plan was going to be complicated. He said when the players prepare for a game they rehearse their battle cry "ALL IN" before they leave the locker room.



Explaining further he said that when a player enters the playing field he must be single-minded; he must let go of all the distractions in his life and more importantly in his mind and be "ALL IN" to win the game. He must be ready to play as a team member giving up his own and personal concerns at that time. He must think beyond those thoughts and focus completely in order to win the game. He didn't give his four point plan on how to accomplish developing this team mind-set, but it probably goes something like this:

1. Determine a purpose.
2. Set a goal.
3. Focus on the goal and manage distractions.
4. Work in community, work together, think like a team.

If these steps are implemented then the players will be "ALL IN" and ready to perform in order to bring the team home with a win.

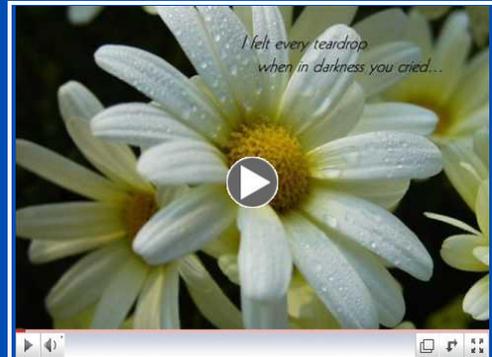
When following Christ, how less can we be than "ALL IN"?

1. My purpose - is to bring glory to God (I Corinthians Chapter 6 Verse 20)
2. My goal - for me to live is Christ (Philippians Chapter 1 Verse 21)
3. My focus - be found in Him (Philippians Chapter 3 Verses 9-14)
4. My community - mutually encourage (Romans Chapter 1 Verse 12)

One of my very favorite songs is **Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing**. It's an old song from the 18th century, penned in 1757. Yet the challenges of my walk with Christ are the same today. One line makes me sit up straight every time I sing it:

"Bind my wandering heart to Thee"

That's my prayer. It is so easy to wander away from bringing glory to God, living sold out for God, being found like-minded with Him and in serving. I can get so full of the world around me I actually forget I am His, bought with a price and redeemed.



Come Thou Fount - Jadon Lavik

I am so deeply grateful He always graciously pulls me back to be "ALL IN" when I forget I am His and that He has allowed me to serve Him with all that I am.

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