



## Monday Matters

January 26, 2015



Normally the two weeks prior to the Super Bowl, everyone is talking football: which team has the best chance of winning, who has the best quarterback, who has the best defense, coach, game plan, etc. This year so far, has been quite different. All people seem to be talking about is Deflatgate. The Patriots are being accused of deflating the footballs that would be used by their offensive team. Somewhere around halftime of the AFC Championship game it was determined that the Patriots were using deflated footballs, making it easier to throw in cold weather. And that is illegal according to NFL rules.

The controversy will go on all the way to the Super Bowl and beyond. People have set their priorities to talk football every day before anything else. But what should be our priorities in life? Below is an excerpt from Peyton Manning in his book *Manning*, one of the best quarterbacks in football history, if not the best.

*Like my dad, I make it a point when I speak to groups to talk about priorities, and when it's schoolkids, I rank those priorities as: faith, family, and education, then football. For me generally it had always been the big*



One Thing Remains

*four: faith, family, friends, and football. And I tell all of them that as important as football is to me, it can never be higher than fourth.*

*My faith has been number one since I was thirteen years old and heard from the pulpit on a Sunday morning in New Orleans a simple question: "If you died today, are you one hundred percent sure you'd go to heaven?" Cooper was there and Eli [Peyton's two brothers] but it didn't hit them at the time the way it did me. It was a big church, and I felt very small, but my heart was pounding. The minister invited those who would like that assurance through Jesus Christ to raise their hands, and I did. Then he invited us to come forward, to take a stand, and my heart really started pounding. And from where we sat, it looked like a mile to the front.*



*But I got up and did it. And I committed my life to Christ, and that faith has been most important to me ever since.*

I believe Peyton Manning sets an excellent example for all of us to follow. The Bible teaches us to set our sights on things above, not on things of this earth.

RN



Ron Nelson, CCA - Email - [MondayMatters.us@gmail.com](mailto:MondayMatters.us@gmail.com)

Linda J. Nelson - Email - [ArtByLJNelson@bellsouth.net](mailto:ArtByLJNelson@bellsouth.net)

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