



NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

We Are All Olympians

I was picked to run in the 1966 Olympic Games. That is right, I was to participate in our school district's Elementary Olympic Games. However, a week before the games, I was challenged by another person. I still remember that race off in the field behind the school. We ran and I choked out of the gate.

The first Olympics is traditionally dated to 776 BC. They continued to be celebrated when Greece came under Roman rule, until the emperor Theodosius I suppressed them in 393 AD. The games were always held at Olympia, Greece every four years. During the first 200 years of the games' existence, they were religious and athletic festivals. Originally, athletes competing in the Olympic Games wore loincloths. This item of clothing was phased out and eventually athletes competed in the nude. The first modern games, held under the auspices of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), were hosted in the Panathenaic stadium in Athens in 1896. Those Games brought together 14 nations and 241 athletes who competed in 43 events. See Wikipedia.org: [Ancient Olympics](#) and [Olympic Games](#).

The first Winter Olympics, the 1924 Winter Olympics, was held in Chamonix, France. The original five sports (broken into nine disciplines) were bobsleigh, curling, ice hockey, Nordic skiing and skating. The Games were held every four years from 1924 to 1936, interrupted in 1940 and 1944 by World War II. The Winter and Summer Olympic Games were always held in the same years, but after the 1992 Winter Olympics the next one was held in 1994. Now the Winter and Summer Games are two years apart. See Wikipedia.org: [Winter Olympic Games](#). It was too cold for these athletes to compete in the nude.

"The first Special Olympics games were held on July 20, 1968, at Soldier Field in Chicago. About 1,000 athletes from the U.S. and Canada took part in the one-day event. In 1988, the Special Olympics was officially recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Special Olympics is the world's largest sports organization for children and adults with intellectual disabilities providing year-round training and activities to five million participants and Unified Sports partners in 172 countries."¹

The Olympics is not the opening or closing ceremonies. It is about competition, companionship, and camaraderie. It is wrong to use the Olympias to promote entertainment, ideology, or commercialism. It is a personal disciple that strives for a goal. "Where there is no vision, the people perish." Prov. 29:18

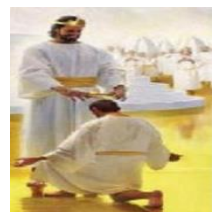
Like it or not, we are Olympians in a spiritual race with the finish line quickly approaching. What we do on earth does not determine if we get to Heaven. (Only trusting Jesus will do that. John 3:16) However, it will determine our Heavenly rewards. We must have that same Olympian disciple, not for selfish reasons but to hear from our Lord "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." Matt. 25:21

"Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we incorruptible." I Cor. 9:24



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"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." Heb 12:1



¹ en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_Olympics

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