



DAILY TIME WITH GOD



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THEME: Teamwork

Jan 1

VERSE: No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be loyal to the one and despise the other.

Matthew 6:24

GOD THOUGHTS:

Whether we are playing sports or living life it is imperative to know whose team you are on. Some of the most memorable moments in sports have been when players have done something that has helped the other team win. These moments are not quickly forgotten and cause a certain amount of distrust among your teammates. As important as this may seem in sports it is even more important when we talk about serving God. Everyday our actions either are in support of our God or working against God. Whose team are you playing for?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Genesis 1:1-2:25 Matthew 1:1-2:12
Psalms 1:1-6 Proverbs 1:1-6

THEME: Teamwork

Jan 2

VERSE: But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. **Matthew 6:33**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Playing on a team can be a challenge for some of us because we have to put the good of the team above our own. Many athletes have put the pursuit of individual glory ahead of their teams. They may achieve individual records but their team fails to win. It is only when we focus on making our team better that we can become a champion. As children of God our first priority is to be committed to the success of His team, the church. As we seek to make others better, God then provides the things we truly need. What's your priority?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Genesis 3:1-4:26 Matthew 2:13-3:6
Psalms 2:1-12 Proverbs 1:7-9

THEME: Teamwork

Jan 3

VERSE: There are diversities of gifts, but the same spirit. **1 Corinthians 12:4**

GOD THOUGHTS:

One of the great things about being on a team is noticing the variety. There are times we are tempted to think because you are not like me you can't be on my team. If you have ever noticed a winning team, one of the first things you notice is that they are not all alike. Each has his own unique appearance, talents, and skills. The whole team concept is a combination of different people who are working together to accomplish a common goal. God gave us each unique talents but then gave us His Spirit to make us one. Are you playing your part?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Genesis 5:1-7:24 Matthew 3:7-4:11
Psalms 3:1-8 Proverbs 1:10-19

THEME: Teamwork*Jan 4*

VERSE: But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all. **1 Corinthians 12:7**

GOD THOUGHTS:

"It's all about me" is one of the most common phrases heard today. Most of us would stop short of using this phrase but we often think "what's in it for me". The problem is that if it is all about us we end up frustrated and alone. No one really wants that kind of person on their team. It is only when we begin to accept the idea that it's about God and others that our lives become meaningful and joyful. We were truly made to find our ultimate satisfaction in serving and helping others. Is it all about you?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Genesis 8:1-10:32 Matthew 4:12-25
Psalms 4:1-8 Proverbs 1:20-23

THEME: Teamwork

Jan 5

VERSE: And the Lord said, "Indeed the people are one. . .; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them." **Genesis 11:6**

GOD THOUGHTS:

These are powerful words. In sports, a team that plays together can beat a team of better athletes who do not play with unity. Many times the explanation is that a team that plays well together becomes a champion when no one thought they had a chance. Teams rise and fall based upon their unity. It is also that way in the work of the Lord. By working together, Christians can make a huge impact; much more than they ever would have made working on their own. It is exciting to think what we can accomplish for God if we work together. Will you join the team?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Genesis 11:1-13:4 Matthew 5:1-26
Psalms 5:1-12 Proverbs 1:24-28

THEME: Teamwork*Jan 6*

VERSE: This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. **John 15:12**

GOD THOUGHTS:

A good coach can tell his players what he expects; while a great coach will demonstrate what he expects. One talks while another acts. A coach players want to play for is not all talk but shows by his actions his expectations. Our Savior did that for us as well. His words and His actions were the same. The Bible is not just a do what I say book. Jesus came and lived a perfect life so he could say, "Do as I do and as I say." We should be excited to follow His example. Are you loving others like Jesus did?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Genesis 13:5-15:21 Matthew 5:27-48
Psalm 6:1-10 Proverbs 1:29-33

THEME: Teamwork

Jan 7

VERSE: Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. **John 15:13**

GOD THOUGHTS:

We cheer for and acknowledge athletes who give up their own time and money to help someone else have more. Sometimes they play while hurting. We talk about what a sacrifice that was. The truth be known there was one sacrifice that will forever make all the other things we give up small in comparison. Jesus left heaven and was tortured and killed to pay for our sins not His. This is truly the greatest example of love. This is the example we are to follow. There is no sacrifice that should be too great for us considering what He did for us. What are you sacrificing?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Genesis 16:1-18:15 Matthew 6:1-24
Psalms 7:1-17 Proverbs 2:1-5

THEME: Teamwork*Jan 8*

VERSE: For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. **1 Corinthians 6:20**

GOD THOUGHTS:

It is very interesting to hear professional athletes talk about their owners. In a sense, that term is correct because they own the team with which the player has signed a contract to play. They have agreed to give of their time and ability for a certain amount of money. As Christians, we agreed to use the time and abilities that were given us by God in exchange for Jesus paying the penalty for our sins. This is a lifetime contract. The question is, are we living up to our part of the agreement?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Genesis 18:16-19:38 Matthew 6:25-7:14
Psalms 8:1-9 Proverbs 2:6-15

THEME: Teamwork

Jan 9

VERSE: Then He said unto them, "Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men." **Matthew 4:19**

GOD THOUGHTS:

We are tempted sometimes to think we can achieve greatness on our own without any help. We trust our own abilities and our own thoughts more than we trust other people. We work hard and sometimes we meet with limited success. We can never achieve all we were meant to achieve alone. Jesus who had all abilities, perfect thinking, all power chose to work through a team. In fact, the first thing he did was start a team. Jesus is inviting you today; will you join His team?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Genesis 20:1-22:24 Matthew 7:15-29
Psalms 9:1-12 Proverbs 2:16-22

THEME: Teamwork*Jan 10*

VERSE: Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

Philippians 2:3**GOD THOUGHTS:**

Teammates who are trying to make a name for themselves put themselves in opposition to their team. When we are playing or just mentally focused on ourselves, our eyes are on our own prize and not the team prize. Truly the Most Valuable Player on a team is the one who does the most to help the players around him be better and ultimately help that team achieve their fullest potential. This doesn't happen by accident. It happens when people lift up each other instead of themselves. As believers, we are more valuable when we lift up each other. Who are you making better?

MY THOUGHTS:**READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Genesis 23:1-24:51 Matthew 8:1-17
Psalms 9:13-20 Proverbs 3:1-6

THEME: Teamwork

Jan 11

VERSE: Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also the interests of others.

Philippians 2:4

GOD THOUGHTS:

How many times, when we are faced with decisions does the thought come to mind, "What about me?" By nature, we always want to put ourselves first. It doesn't take any extra thought or effort; it's easy. On a team, that is destructive because by definition a team is a group of people who are united together for a common cause with each filling a role to accomplish this task. A true "team player" is concerned about the other members of the team more than himself. Have you asked yourself, "What about the team?"

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Genesis 24:52-26:16 Matthew 8:18-34
Psalms 10:1-15 Proverbs 3:7-8

THEME: Teamwork*Jan 12*

VERSE: Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. **Ephesians 4:3**

GOD THOUGHTS:

It is said of teams who win championships they have a “bond” or they “bought in” to the system of play. We sometimes act as if team unity is something that is beyond our control. According to God, unity is something that we can control. God would not ask us to have unity if it is something we have no control over. God’s Word clearly states that whether we have unity or not is up to us. This verse clearly teaches us that we should be working at having and maintaining unity. We won’t accomplish much without it. Are you bringing people together or pushing them apart?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Genesis 26:17-27:46 Matthew 9:1-17
Psalms 10:16-18 Proverbs 3:9-10

THEME: Teamwork*Jan 13*

VERSE: Then a dispute arose among them as to which of them would be greatest. **Luke 9:46**

GOD THOUGHTS:

This was a group of guys who had lived together, worked together, faced danger together, seen and done miracles together. This wasn't just a bunch of nobodies. Jesus had called them and their names are immortalized in the Bible. This is probably one part they would like to have left out. We are all vulnerable at times to want recognition for what we have done. Jesus told them the way to recognition with God is by serving others; not by doing great works. Next time you want recognition for what you have done, ask yourself, "Who am I serving?"

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Genesis 28:1-29:35 Matthew 9:18-38
Psalm 11:1-7 Proverbs 3:11-12

THEME: Teamwork

Jan 14

VERSE: Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. **Acts 2:44-45**

GOD THOUGHTS:

What a beautiful picture of teamwork. They shared with each other and sacrificed for each other. No one had to make them do this. They enjoyed each other's company and spent lots of time together. People were willing to share with each other. Others were able to do more and sacrificed what they had so they could give to others. One good way to check how you feel about your teammates or your fellow Christians would be to ask yourself, "Do I share with and sacrifice for others?"

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Genesis 30:1-31:16 Matthew 10:1-23
Psalm 12:1-8 Proverbs 3:13-15

THEME: Teamwork

Jan 15

VERSE: Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name. **Luke 10:17**

GOD THOUGHTS:

We love to celebrate victories. The disciples were returning from seeing demons cast out through the power of Jesus. They were happy. They were joyful. Jesus listened to the good news they were celebrating. He never told them not to celebrate. He just told them to celebrate the right thing. Jesus said the power was not such a big deal. Jesus said the thing we should celebrate is that we are going to be in heaven. Are you going to be in heaven? If so, rejoice. You have a reason to celebrate. Have you celebrated today?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Genesis 31:17-32:12 Matthew 10:24-11:6
Psalm 13:1-6 Proverbs 3:16-18

THEME: Daily Workout

Jan 16

VERSE: But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified. **1 Corinthians 9:27**

GOD THOUGHTS:

We have all heard the sad stories of people who through hard work, discipline, and ability have risen to the top of the athletic world, political world, or any area only to have it all come crashing down around them as some secret gets out. They go from being famous to being infamous; from being the first person everyone wants to talk to, to being left out of the conversation. When people talk about you, then it is no longer your achievements but your failure of which they speak. You have risen to the top only to fall back down again. Is there something in your life that would disqualify you?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Genesis 32:13-34:31 Matthew 11:7-30
Psalm 14:1-7 Proverbs 3:19-20

THEME: Daily Workout

Jan 17

VERSE: But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

1 Corinthians 9:27

GOD THOUGHTS:

Talent can get you to the top but only character will keep you there. This is true in all fields of life. Knowing this, we should pay as much attention to building our character as to developing our athletic abilities. Most people give very little thought to their character. The wisdom of the Bible teaches us to focus on our character, because only through this can we achieve lasting success. It requires effort and self-discipline to develop character; but it will benefit us all of our lives, even after our talent fades. Are you working on building Godly character in your life?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Genesis 35:1-36:43 Matthew 12:1-21
Psalm 15:1-5 Proverbs 3:21-26

THEME: Daily Workout

Jan 18

VERSE: But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart. **1 Samuel 16:7**

GOD THOUGHTS:

So many times, we are quick to judge an athlete by their appearance. Many times, we have been disappointed using this process because what we saw on the outside wasn't what we saw when they played. The truth is, it's more important what is going on in the inside. That is what truly counts. We need to focus on developing our character because that is what is going to make us successful or cause us to fail. God looks at our character; not our appearance. So let's focus on developing what is on the inside. Do you spend as much time on your character as you do on your appearance?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Genesis 37:1-38:30 Matthew 12:22-45
Psalm 16:1-11 Proverbs 3:27-32

THEME: Daily Workout

Jan 19

VERSE: Do all things without complaining and disputing, **Philippians 2:14**

GOD THOUGHTS:

One way to tell how well a team is playing is by listening to them talk. When you hear a lot of complaining, the performance of that player and the team will go downhill. The reason for this is the person complaining is saying he knows better than the coach or the other players what is best. That disrupts all the chemistry a team has. This is also true in life. When a person complains, they are saying they know better than God what is best for their lives. When you believe this, you will continue to make choices that will hurt you. When you open your mouth, is it to praise or complain?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Genesis 39:1-41:16 Matthew 12:46-13:23
Psalm 17:1-15 Proverbs 3:33-35

THEME: Daily Workout

Jan 20

VERSE: And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men. **Colossians 3:23**

GOD THOUGHTS:

An athlete must give completely of himself or he will let his team and himself down. As a fan, there is nothing more disappointing than to watch an athlete give less than his full effort. True athletes always give everything they have every time they step on the field because they know they will never get another chance to relive today. In the same way, Christians should give everything they have in how they live every day. Today may be the only chance we have to make a difference in someone's life; so let's give it our best shot. Who are you going to bless today?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Genesis 41:17-42:17 Matthew 13:24-46
Psalm 18:1-15 Proverbs 4:1-6

THEME: Choose Friends Wisely

VERSE: The righteous should choose his friends carefully. **Proverbs 12:26**

GOD THOUGHTS:

One of the most critical choices we make in athletics is choosing teams. Whether we do it or someone else does, it has a profound impact on the results we get. Pick a poor team and you will get poor results. Everyone wants to pick the best team they can. We all want to win. It's also that way in life. If we want to do well, we need to surround ourselves with good people. Our friends are our choice. We need to be careful about who we "have on our team." They will either help us be better or they will bring us down. Do your friends make you better or tempt you to be worse?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Genesis 42:18-43:34 Matthew 13:47-14:12
Psalm 18:16-36 Proverbs 4:7-10

THEME: Encouragement

Jan 22

VERSE: Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

GOD THOUGHTS:

It is inevitable that in an athlete's life there are going to be disappointments. There are going to be injuries and tough losses. That is the nature of both sports and life. Every team needs some who will come and encourage those who are down. These people come and help us to find the courage to go on. We all need these people in our lives. Just as we need people to encourage us, we should also be encouraging others. As Christians, we know that this is not all there is and there is a better day coming. We have something to which we can look forward. Who are you going to encourage today?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Genesis 44:1-45:28 Matthew 14:13-36
Psalm 18:37-50 Proverbs 4:11-13

THEME: Diligence

Jan 23

VERSE: But the soul of the diligent shall be made rich. **Proverbs 13:4**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Another character trait that improves our quality of life is diligence. Some of the more famous athletes are known for spending hours after everyone else has gone home working on their athletic skills. It seems there is a direct relationship to the extra time they give and their performance on the athletic field. It is this way in life as well. If we want to live better in our Christian lives, then we must also put in extra effort. The areas of our lives we invest in will improve. Put your effort into your daily walk with God; it will bless every area of your life. How much extra time will you put into your walk with God today?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Genesis 46:1-47:31 Matthew 15:1-28
Psalm 19:1-14 Proverbs 4:14-19

THEME: Teachability

Jan 24

VERSE: The wise in heart will receive commands,
Proverbs 10:8

GOD THOUGHTS:

Athletes are improved by coaches. Even professional athletes, who we think are so talented, sometimes hire private coaches to help them improve their game. On the other hand, there are athletes who seem to think they know it all and refuse additional instruction. These players seem to plateau and their abilities slowly fade. We all should recognize the benefits of instruction. As followers of Christ, we can improve our lives by being open to instruction. It's when we can't be taught that we become dangerous. Are you teachable?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Genesis 48:1-49:33 Matthew 15:29-16:12
Psalm 20:1-9 Proverbs 4:20-27

THEME: Your Treasure

Jan 25

VERSE: For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. **Luke 12:34**

GOD THOUGHTS:

What is your treasure? What do you think about the most? What gets you excited just thinking about it? For many athletes, it's the championship trophy. Being a champion is their goal. Many hours of hard work seem like nothing when you are standing up to receive your prize. Olympic athletes spend many hours to achieve their medals. What about the things of God? I show how much I treasure them by how I spend my time, how I focus my efforts, and by what I talk about. Is your treasure worth trading your one and only life for?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Genesis 50:1 Exodus 2:10 Matthew 16:13- 17:9
Psalm 21:1-13 Prov. 5:1-6

THEME: Getting Your Life Back*Jan 26***VERSE:** Redeeming the time. **Colossians 4:5****GOD THOUGHTS:**

Many athletes give much of their time to their sport. They don't have time for a lot of other activities. Most of their lives are dictated by their sports involvement. They build their lives around it. As a Christian, what have we built our lives around? Have we built it around our relationship with God and being involved in His Church? As a Christian, if our life is built around anything else we need to take it back. That's what this verse is telling us. We should take our life back from worthless things and give it to something that will count forever. What will you do with your time today?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Exodus 2:11-3:22 Matthew 17:10-27
Psalm 22:1-18 Proverbs 5:7-14

THEME: Wise Living

Jan 27

VERSE: Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. **Colossians 4:5**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Athletes should make wise choices in how they eat and rest. There are also other things they should leave alone. For them, it's not a matter of right and wrong but a matter of doing the wise thing. As Christians, there are many who believe that if something is not specifically prohibited, then it is ok for them. They are asking the wrong question. "Would this be a wise thing for me to do?" is a better question. Is this going to bring me closer to God? Would this activity keep someone else from wanting to know God?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Exodus 4:1-5:21 Matthew 18:1-20
Psalm 22:19-31 Proverbs 5:15-21

THEME: Putting the Past Behind You*Jan 28*

VERSE: Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. **Isaiah 43:18**

GOD THOUGHTS:

One of the keys to a solid performance in athletics is to forget about the last game, whether it was good or bad. If you are focused on what happened before, it is impossible to perform your best today. You can only play the game you have today. It's the same way with life; if we are focused on the hurts or the blessings of the past, we are not going to be fully open to what God is doing in our lives today. And then, we will miss out. Are you thinking about yesterday or are you focused on living today?

MY THOUGHTS:**READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Exodus 5:22-7:25 Matthew 18:21-19:12
Psalm 23:1-6 Proverbs 5:22-23

THEME: Focus on Excellence

Jan 29

VERSE: Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before unknown men. **Proverbs 22:29**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Athletes work hard and part of the reward is to have someone famous or well known to hand them their trophy. It's a validation that they have performed well to have someone famous there for the ceremony. It is a reward for a job well done. That is a principle that flows throughout all of life. Excellent work is recognized. It enables people to be promoted in their work. It helps them receive raises in pay and sometimes bonuses. Is your work just good enough to get by or do you seek to work with excellence?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Exodus 8:1-9:35 Matthew 19:13-30
Psalm 24:1-10 Proverbs 6:1-5

THEME: Beware of Pride*Jan 30***VERSE:** By pride comes nothing but strife,
Proverbs 13:10**GOD THOUGHTS:**

There are certain athletes today who are extremely talented but no one seems to want them on their team. The reason is that wherever they go there are problems getting along with the coach or other players. No one wants someone on a team who only looks out for themselves. These players will never be all they could have been but, because of pride, they can't even see they are the problem. Don't let pride into your life. No person is so important that life won't go on without them. You don't need the problems. Do you see the need of others?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Exodus 10:1-12:13 Matthew 20:1-28
Psalm 25:1-15 Proverbs 6:6-11

THEME: Control Yourself

Jan 31

VERSE: But he who is impulsive exalts folly.

Proverbs 14:29

GOD THOUGHTS:

Many athletes are remembered more for their mistakes than their good play. Certain athletes, every time their name is mentioned, there is always a statement about the time they behaved in a bad way and where that has left them today. Those who have suffered this loss didn't end up there without warning. In small ways before this, they failed to exercise self-control. For some reason, they failed to see the danger and correct it. Then the small lack of self-control burst into the spotlight and they are left with a mess to clean up. Do you have self-control?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Exodus 12:14-13:16 Matthew 20:29-21:22

Psalm 25:16-22 Proverbs 6:12-15

THEME: Integrity

Feb 1

VERSE: The integrity of the upright will guide them, **Proverbs 11:3**

GOD THOUGHTS:

One of the best ways to avoid trouble in life is to decide beforehand what you will do in a situation. An example of this is teaching our children to say "no to drugs." Decide what you will do based on your goals. An athlete will go to practice even when he would rather do something else because it helps him reach his goals. He knows to avoid drugs and alcohol which will hurt his performance. As Christians, we need to make our decisions based upon what Jesus would do. Then our integrity will truly guide us. Do you have a plan to overcome temptation?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Exodus 13:17-15:18 Matthew 21:23-46
Psalm 26:1-12 Proverbs 6:16-19

THEME: Planning

Feb 2

VERSE: The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, **Proverbs 21:5**

GOD THOUGHTS:

A successful team always has a plan. All of their decisions and hard work are guided by that plan. Soon other teams will want to copy that plan. But the plan will only work when all their decisions and hard work follow that plan. This is usually where the other teams fail. A plan alone won't guarantee success; but a plan that guides all decisions and is followed with diligence will take you where you want to go in life. Life without a plan won't take you where you want to go. What is your plan?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Exodus 15:19-17:7 Matthew 22:1-33
Psalm 27:1-6 Proverbs 6:20-26

THEME: Attitude*Feb 3***VERSE:** Rejoice always. **1 Thessalonians 5:16****GOD THOUGHTS:**

Renowned pastor and author Charles Swindoll said, "I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you and me...we are in charge of our attitudes. Attitude, to me, is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness, or skill. It will make or break a company...a church...a home." As life's circumstances greet you today what kind of attitude will you commit to having?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Exodus 17:8-19:15 Matthew 22:34-23:12
Psalms 27:7-14 Proverbs 6:27-35

THEME: Recognition of Authority

Feb 4

VERSE: Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. **Romans 13:1**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Every team has a coach who runs the team. Every sport has somebody who sets the rules. If we want to play, we must play by their rules. We don't get to make the rules. This is another life principle. Even when we are growing up, our parents make the rules. One of the sure ways to have problems is to not follow the rules. The consequences can range from a penalty call in soccer to time in jail from the police. It all depends on whose rule you break. God placed these authorities into their place and we should be subject to them. Are you obeying those in authority over you?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Exodus 19:16-21:21 Matthew 23:13-39
Psalm 28:1-9 Proverbs 7:1-5

THEME: Consequences

Feb 5

VERSE: For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. **Romans 13:3**

GOD THOUGHTS:

All actions have consequences. Some are even predictable. If you kick a ball hard, it will usually go far. The direction it goes depends on the direction you kick it. We can choose our actions but we don't always get to choose our consequences. When we choose to do well, we don't have anything to worry about. When we choose to do wrong, there is always a fearful expectation that we could get caught. As Christians, we should focus on doing the right things both to enjoy the good consequences and the freedom from fear that it brings. What direction are you choosing?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Exodus 21:22-23:13 Matthew 24:1-28
Psalms 29:1-11 Proverbs 7:6-23

THEME: Replacing Negative Thoughts

Feb 6

VERSE: Finally brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, ..., if there is anything praiseworthy-meditate on these things. **Philippians 4:8**

GOD THOUGHTS:

As an athlete, you have probably had a practice or a game that you would just like to forget about. Things went so badly that you don't want to remember it. One of the things we can't wait to do is to get back out there so we can replace those memories with some positive ones. The same is true in life. People can say, don't think about bad things and we really try to do that. The problem is your mind won't run on empty. It will go back to the negative unless you replace it with something positive. Don't try to forget negative thoughts; replace them. What are you thinking about?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Exodus 23:14-25:40 Matthew 24:29-51
Psalms 30:1-12 Proverbs 7:24-27

THEME: The Way Out

Feb 7

VERSE: No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. **1 Corinthians 10:13**

GOD THOUGHTS:

We have all seen athletes, in situations where it seemed they were trapped, maneuver themselves and escape. We are amazed and wonder how they did it. First, they recognized the trap. Secondly, they believed they could escape. And finally, they have gotten out of other situations before, so they have confidence. As we face temptations, God has guaranteed us a way out. When we find ourselves seemingly trapped, remember God has made the way out. Are you watching out for traps in your life?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Exodus 26:1-27:21 Matthew 25:1-30
Psalms 31:1-8 Proverbs 8:1-11

THEME: Reputation

Feb 8

VERSE: Even a child is known by his deeds,
Whether what he does is pure and right.

Proverbs 20:11

GOD THOUGHTS:

Speak of a famous athlete and we immediately think about some of the great plays they have made and championships they have won. Every athlete strives to have their name mentioned along with some great accomplishment. This mirrors how life works outside of sports as well. If someone were to describe you now, what would they say? Are you a good friend, selfish, or maybe arrogant? As Christians, we need to make sure that our actions line up with the Bible, because it not only speaks of us, it speaks of Jesus as well. What would people say about you?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Exodus 28:1-43 Matthew 25:31-26:13

Psalms 31:9-18 Proverbs 8:12-13

THEME: Be Careful*Feb 9*

VERSE: Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. **1 Corinthians 10:12**

GOD THOUGHTS:

One of the most memorable things I have seen is, at the end of games when a team thinks they have it won, they relax and then lose the game on the last play. Joy is turned to stunned disbelief and then horror as they ask themselves, how did this happen? It should serve as a warning to us all. We have an enemy who is waiting to defeat us and is looking for an opening. The moment we relax or ignore him, he will attack. Then we too will wonder how did this happen. It all begins when we let down our guard. Remember the games not over til the final whistle. Are you on your guard?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Exodus 29:1-30:10 Matthew 26:14-46
Psalms 31:19-24 Proverbs 8:14-26

THEME: The Credit*Feb 10*

VERSE: Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31

GOD THOUGHTS:

Many athletes dream of the moment that they will stand on the field having made some great play and hear the crowd stand and cheer. I have also noticed at these moments many athletes first acknowledge God and then the crowd. Why would they do this? Because any ability they have and the health they have was all given to them by God and He deserves the credit for it. Have you had some victories in your life? First, acknowledge God and give Him the credit He deserves. You couldn't have done it without Him. Who gets the credit in your life?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Exodus 30:11-31:18 Matthew 26:47-68
Psalms 32:1-11 Proverbs 8:27-32

THEME: Your Purpose

Feb 11

VERSE: And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" **Luke 2:49**

GOD THOUGHTS:

When an athlete is given a position to play, he learns all he can about that position because he wants to perform well. He knows he will be accountable to his coach for how he performs in that position. Jesus knew He had a purpose and who had given Him that role. We should put our efforts into finding that role and then doing it well. We should be about our Father's business. One day we will give an account for how we performed in the role He gave us. What role has God planned for you and how well are you doing it?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Exodus 32:1-33:23 Matthew 26:69-27:14
Psalms 33:1-11 Proverbs 8:33-36

THEME: A Balanced Life

Feb 12

VERSE: And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him. **Luke 2:40**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Athletes know they have to exercise all of their body in order to create a healthy balance and to provide for a better overall performance. No one wants to fail because they didn't take care of themselves. The Bible tells us Jesus grew physically, emotionally, and spiritually. He is our role model. If we only focus on one part of our lives, we will eventually suffer because of our lack of balance. We all want to perform well for a long time and a balanced life will help us get there. What part of your life do you need to work on?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Exodus 34:1-35:9 Matthew 27:15-31
Psalms 33:12-22 Proverbs 9:1-6

THEME: Encouragement

Feb 13

VERSE: And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works. **Hebrews 10:24**

GOD THOUGHTS:

In sports, it is common to see a teammate go over and put his arm around or talk to another player who has just made a bad play or missed an easy shot. The purpose is so the player knows his team is still with him and to be encouraged so he will do better on his next opportunity. What a great picture of the Church! When someone is struggling, we should put our arms around them and let them know they are still part of the team and encourage them to walk in love and do good works. We should all do this because tomorrow we may be the one who needs the encouragement. Who will you encourage today?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Exodus 35:10-36:38 Matthew 27:32-66
Psalms 34:1-10 Proverbs 9:7-8

THEME: Can't Stop Love*Feb 14***VERSE:** Love never fails. **1 Corinthians 13:8****GOD THOUGHTS:**

If you play sports long enough, you will have one of those days when everything goes wrong. Nothing seems to work right and you can't wait for the game to be over so you can get out of there. No matter how bad the game was, the team goes to the locker room together and, if it's a road game, travels back home together. They don't think about being on another team. They have hope for the future. True Christian love is this way. No matter how bad the day, we are still on the same team. We truly have hope for the future because we are on His team. Is your hope in Christ?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Exodus 37:1-38:31 Matthew 28:1-20
Psalms 34:11-22 Proverbs 9:9-10

THEME: Listen Up

Feb 15

VERSE: Hear, my children, the instruction of a father, and give attention to know understanding.

Proverbs 4:1

GOD THOUGHTS:

When a team gathers around their coach, they sit in silence and listen. They trust in their coach and expect to hear from him words that will help them as they play the game. When he is done, they get up and usually, with some cheer, go to enthusiastically do what they were asked to do. Why is it that we are quick to hear from a coach but sometimes don't pay attention to our parents or our Church leaders? I know my parents and Church leaders care more about me than any coach I ever had. So we need to listen up so we can enthusiastically do what we were asked to do. Are you listening to those people God has placed in your life?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Exodus 39:1-40:38 Mark 1:1-28
Psalm 35:1-16 Proverbs 9:11-12

THEME: Good Times

Feb 16

VERSE: Behold, how good and how pleasant it is
For brethren to dwell together in unity. **Psalm 133:1**

GOD THOUGHTS:

The sounds of laughter and teasing break tension in the air. We all want to be part of a team who likes each other and has a good time together. When a team is united behind one purpose, this is the result. They look forward to spending time together. As Christians, we all have one purpose as well. Knowing we are all on the same team with one purpose should make being together an enjoyable time. If we don't enjoy being together, we should ask ourselves, am I focusing on the right purpose for my life? Do you enjoy time with other Christians?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Leviticus 1:1-3:17 Mark 1:29-2:12
Psalms 35:17-28 Proverbs 9:13-18

THEME: Good Company

Feb 17

VERSE: He who walks with wise men will be wise, **Proverbs 13:20**

GOD THOUGHTS:

One of the greatest resources on any team is an experienced player who will take the time to teach the younger players what he has learned. His efforts will help these younger players to perform better and will give them wisdom beyond their experience. It is always better to learn from someone else's mistakes than to have to make them all yourself. As Christians, we should spend time with more mature Christians so we can become wise ourselves. With this wisdom, we will then be able to teach those who are just being saved. Who are you spending time with?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Leviticus 4:1-5:19 Mark 2:13-3:6
Psalm 36:1-12 Proverbs 10:1-2

THEME: Bad Company

Feb 18

VERSE: But the companion of fools will be destroyed. **Proverbs 13:20**

GOD THOUGHTS:

I have seen athletes with promising careers choose the wrong kind of friends and end up losing it all. Instead of making lots of money and enjoying the sport they love, they end up in jail or even dead. We say what a waste, what a tragedy. Look at your friends and ask yourself, what direction in life are they heading? If they are heading the wrong direction, are they taking you with them? We should make sure we are going the right direction and that we are taking others with us. Don't be close friends with someone who will bring you down. Are your friends lifting you up or bringing you down?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Leviticus 6:1-7:27 Mark 3:7-30
Psalms 37:1-11 Proverbs 10:3-4

THEME: Make the Change*Feb 19***VERSE:** Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell forevermore. **Psalms 37:27****GOD THOUGHTS:**

Even good players can develop bad habits from time to time. When the problem is identified, they spend time with the coach to correct this. The first step is to stop doing the wrong thing. The second step is to replace it with the right thing. The coach knows that if you don't replace the wrong thing with the right thing, we will just go back. In our Christian lives, we should replace our bad habits with good habits. Many times, we quit the bad habits without replacing them and we just go back. The Bible says when we replace the bad habits with the good ones we will be blessed. What habits need to change in your life?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Leviticus 7:28-9:6 Mark 3:31-4:25
Psalms 37:12-29 Proverbs 10:5

THEME: Are You Teachable?

Feb 20

VERSE: The way of a fool is right in his own eyes,
Proverbs 12:15

GOD THOUGHTS:

The best coach in the world can't help some players. It just doesn't seem to matter what you do, they won't listen. They are heading down a road that leads to nowhere; yet they think they know what they are doing. They would argue and tell you that everything will be all right. Eventually they end up off the team and sometimes they still can't see why. It's even worse when it's not in sports but in life. Worse things can happen than not being on a team anymore. We should ask ourselves, Am I teachable? Am I open to correction? As a follower of Christ, this is an absolute must. The big question is, will you take the teaching and apply it to your life?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Leviticus 9:7-10:20 Mark 4:26-5:20
Psalms 37:30-40 Proverbs 10:6-7

THEME: Are You Wise?*Feb 21***VERSE:** But he who heeds counsel is wise.**Proverbs 12:15****GOD THOUGHTS:**

Have you ever noticed that the player who works with a coach the most, improves faster than other players? Taking the time to listen and improve your performance is the mark of a good player. It is also wise. The Bible clearly tells us this. Notice, it doesn't say he who hears counsel is wise. It's the one who hears it and then changes his life to match it who is wise. We all need someone wise, like a coach, to speak into our lives. Look for that person and then take their wisdom and improve your life. Then you too will be wise. Whose counsel are you following?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Leviticus 11:1-12:8 Mark 5:21-43

Psalms 38:1-22 Proverbs 10:8-9

THEME: Road to Poverty

VERSE: He who has a slack hand becomes poor,
Proverbs 10:4

GOD THOUGHTS:

The person with the most talent may not be the best player on your team. In fact, sometimes because of their lack of effort, they hurt the team. I have seen teams play better after the most talented player comes off the field. It is a waste when someone with enormous talent does nothing with it. Eventually, they end up with little, when they could have had so much if they had just worked at it. The Bible teaches us the surest way to poverty is to not work hard. You can get by for awhile without hard work but eventually it leads to lack. Are you working hard?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Leviticus 13:1-59 Mark 6:1-29
 Psalms 39:1-13 Proverbs 10:10

THEME: Road to Blessing

Feb 23

VERSE: But the hand of the diligent makes rich.
Proverbs 10:4

GOD THOUGHTS:

I also have seen athletes who weren't as talented as others achieve success due to their hardwork. It wasn't just a day, a week, or even a season that made all the difference for them. They have spent years working hard and now they are enjoying their rewards. We all admire their success and credit their work; but how many of us are willing to pay that price? This kind of continual effort pays off in our spiritual life as well. To know God well and enjoy His presence requires a consistent walk with Him. We will never regret the time we have invested with God. Are you spending regular time with God?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Leviticus 14:1-57 Mark 6:30-56
Psalms 40:1-10 Proverbs 10:11-12

THEME: How's Your Life?

Feb 24

VERSE: Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, **Philippians 1:27**

GOD THOUGHTS:

When a team travels, they are reminded that wherever they go and whatever they do, they are representing that team. The expectation is that their behavior will speak well of their team and the city it represents. It only takes a few minutes of poor behavior to ruin a reputation. As Christians, we have an even more important obligation because we represent the King of Kings. People will form their opinions about Him based on what they see from us. Knowing this, we should always be aware that it would only take a few minutes of selfishness for people to think poorly of our God. So, how's your life?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Leviticus 15:1-16:28 Mark 7:1-23
Psalms 40:11-17 Proverbs 10:13-14

THEME: Your Duty

Feb 25

VERSE: Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

1 Corinthians 6:19

GOD THOUGHTS:

Athletes are expected to take care of their physical body because it is the tool they use to do their work. In their contracts are specific rules about things they can and cannot do. They accept these restrictions in order to reap the rewards of being on that team. As Christians, we are now on God's team. There are tremendous rewards for being on His team. He also has restrictions on what we can and cannot do based on His knowledge of what would be best for us. He never limits us to keep us from anything good. He only seeks to free us up to enjoy the best. Is the way you are living pleasing to God?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Leviticus 16:29-18:30 Mark 7:24-8:10
Psalms 41:1-13 Proverbs 10:15-16

THEME: Knowing the Rulebook

Feb 26

VERSE: Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. **2 Timothy 2:15**

GOD THOUGHTS:

One of the expectations of an athlete is to learn the rules of the game. To be an effective player, one must know what is acceptable and what is not. The bigger rules are easier but it takes time and effort to learn all of the things you need to know to play well. As a Christian, if I am going to live well, I need to spend time learning how to live. It's not just things not to do; it's also things we should do. To live an approved life will require time and effort but it also comes with many rewards. Are you spending the time?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Leviticus 19:1-20:21 Mark 8:11-38
Psalms 42:1-11 Proverbs 10:17

THEME: No Compromise

Feb 27

VERSE: A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, **Proverbs 22:1**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Throughout sports history, from time to time, teams have been caught cheating. They were willing to take shortcuts to win a trophy. Now they don't have the trophy and they also are known as cheaters. Now that their reputation is ruined, cheating doesn't seem like such a good idea. As Christians, we should value a good reputation over having great wealth. Avoid questionable methods which can harm our reputations and also that of the God we claim to serve. The value of a good reputation will bless us and our families for a long time. Does your lifestyle honor God?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Leviticus 20:22-22:16 Mark 9:1-29
Psalms 43:1-5 Proverbs 10:18

THEME: Game Plans

Feb 28

VERSE: Plans are established by counsel; by wise counsel wage war. **Proverbs 20:18**

GOD THOUGHTS:

As a team approaches a game, they look to their coach for a specific strategy to win the game. They know this specific advice may hold the key to winning and losing. Most coaches have assistants who help them build a game plan. The more help, the better the plan and the more chance of winning. In our lives, it is good to get counsel when we need to make a decision. Find some godly people who can help you make plans. Is there an expert in the area you are thinking about? Ask them. Better advice makes for better plans which helps to bring success. Who are you getting advice from?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Leviticus 22:17-23:44 Mark 9:30-10:12
Psalms 44:1-8 Proverbs 10:19

THEME: When to be Quiet

Mar 1

VERSE: Whoever guards his mouth and tongue keeps his soul from troubles. **Proverbs 21:23**

GOD THOUGHTS:

It is common these days to see athletes and coaches trying to apologize and explain why they said what they said. This takes a lot of time and energy and in the end people will remember what they said that was wrong. Some players have learned and are now careful about what they say. One of the wisest things we can do as Christians is to think before we speak. We can save ourselves lots of headaches if we would just do this. Also we need to consider God's reputation as well. Knowing when to be quiet can save us all a lot of trouble. Do you think before you speak?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Leviticus 24:1-25:46 Mark 10:13-31
Psalms 44:9-26 Proverbs 10:20-21

THEME: Make it Count

Mar 2

VERSE: For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. **James 4:14**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Athletes know their careers are short. This affects their decisions because they know in a few years their opportunity to make money and to win championships will be gone. This also explains why they go to such great lengths to be in shape. They also know at any moment an injury could end their career. This is a perfect picture of life. Knowing our time is short, we should be focused on living for Christ daily. Anything we hope to accomplish for Him should be a priority. Like the athlete, we know at any moment our opportunity could be over. Are you living today to make it count?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Leviticus 25:47-27:13 Mark 10:32-52
Psalms 45:1-17 Proverbs 10:22

THEME: Judgment Day

Mar 3

VERSE: And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment. **Hebrews 9:27**

GOD THOUGHTS:

After the season is over, the coaches often sit down and look over the season. They look at who played well and who didn't. Sometimes they decide they don't want a player on their team anymore. It's a tough time for the players waiting to see what will happen. At the end of our lives we all face a similar event. Our lives will be looked at based on what we did and didn't do. For a lost person, it is about did you accept Jesus as your Savior and Lord. For a Christian, what did we do with the abilities He gave us? Christians are assured a place in heaven; lost people will spend eternity in hell. Are you ready?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Leviticus 27:14-Numbers 1:54
Mark 11:1-26 Psalms 46:1-11 Proverbs 10:23

THEME: Distracted

Mar 4

VERSE: Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. **Matthew 13:22**

GOD THOUGHTS:

At sporting events, fans often make a lot of noise in an attempt to disrupt or distract the opposing team and give their team a better chance of winning. There are times this has a huge impact on the game. This is a perfect analogy of life for a Christian. It is easy to say a Christian's life should be focused on God alone, but there are also a lot of distractions. They seem just as loud as a sports crowd: TV, radio, movies, health issues, career opportunities. Don't become distracted and become unfruitful. Is your life focused on the things that count?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Numbers 2:1-3:51 Mark 11:27-12:17
Psalms 47:1-9 Proverbs 10:24-25

THEME: Where Are You Going?

Mar 5

VERSE: There is a way that seems right to a man. But its end is the way of death. **Proverbs 14:12**

GOD THOUGHTS:

We are made to be imitators. A child watches an athlete and imitates him. One way we learn is by watching someone else. This is primarily how sports are learned. Nothing wrong with that; you just want to choose a good example. In life the importance of choosing the right person to imitate is much higher. The reason is the path you choose to follow determines where you will end up. An easy path to follow can take you to the wrong place. As a Christian, we should follow Christ. It won't be the easiest road but we will like where it ends up. Which path are you on?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Numbers 4:1-5:31 Mark 12:18-37
Psalms 48:1-14 Proverbs 10:26

THEME: Controlling Anger

Mar 6

VERSE: A fool vents all his feelings, But a wise man holds them back. **Proverbs 29:11**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Have you ever seen another player get upset about what happened and then do something that made the situation worse? We want to rush over to our fellow player and encourage them to use their anger to focus on playing better instead of causing penalties that may help lose the game. In life it is just as important to control our anger. We can easily let our anger take control and do and say things that will hurt other people. This damage may happen quickly but takes a long time to undo. Or we can be wise and use our anger to focus on resolving the problem. Do you have a problem controlling your anger?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Numbers 6:1-7:89 Mark 12:38-13:13
Psalms 49:1-20 Proverbs 10:27-28

THEME: Live Today

Mar 7

VERSE: Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth.

Proverbs 27:1

GOD THOUGHTS:

I have heard athletes guarantee that their team will win the next game or the championship. They are making promises about something they don't control. Injuries or sickness or many other things can happen that are beyond our ability to control. An athlete can only promise to give their best effort. In life, it is also tempting to guarantee things or presume that good things will always happen. But that is not always the situation. We should only focus on living for the Lord today, because that is all we truly can control. Is your focus on making your life count today?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Numbers 8:1-9:23 Mark 13:14-37
Psalms 50:1-23 Proverbs 10:29-30

THEME: Think Before Speaking

VERSE: Do you see a man hasty in his words?
There is more hope for a fool than for him.

Proverbs 29:20**GOD THOUGHTS:**

In the heat of battle, athletes sometimes say things to their coaches, the referees, or even other players that they regret later. Trust can be lost, the team can suffer a penalty. Once the words are out they don't come back. Sometimes even as the words are coming out of their mouths they are thinking "I shouldn't have said that." But it's too late. This applies to all of life. We should all stop and think before we speak. We tell our children to count to 10 sometimes. As adults, this might help us as well. Thinking before we speak will help us and the people around us. Do you have a problem with speaking without thinking?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Numbers 10:1-11:23 Mark 14:1-21
Psalms 51:1-19 Proverbs 10:31-32

THEME: Trusted Advice

VERSE: Faithful are the wounds of a friend,
Proverbs 27:6

GOD THOUGHTS:

As an athlete you should be careful who you let influence how you play. If your coach suggests a very different approach, it's okay because you know you can trust him. If someone you don't know suggests a very different approach, be careful, they may not have your best interests in mind. One good principle in life is to allow our friends to point out areas where we need to change. As Christians, this is part of our responsibility. Be careful whose advice you take when it comes to making changes. Who do you go to for advice?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Numbers 11:24-13:33 Mark 14:22-52
 Psalms 52:1-9 Proverbs 11:1-3

THEME: Good Advice

VERSE: As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend. **Proverbs 27:17**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Good athletes love to work out with other good athletes. They feel the competition makes them better. Their thinking is, if they only practice against poor competition, they will not improve. As Christians, we should focus on encouraging each other to walk more closely with the Lord. It might be easier to spend time with someone who will not challenge us, but then our lives will be mediocre. Find someone who will challenge you to live for God and spend time with them. Let them sharpen you. When will you find someone who will sharpen you?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Numbers 14:1-15:16 Mark 14:53-72
Psalms 53:1-6 Proverbs 11:4

THEME: Respect

Mar 11

VERSE: Serve the Lord with fear, And rejoice with trembling. **Psalms 2:11**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Any team functions better when there is the proper amount of respect for the coach. When the players do not respect the coach, the team is limited from the start no matter how talented they are. Talent that has respect for leadership will always do well. As Christians, we should always make sure that we have respect/fear for our Lord. We should obey His requests just like athletes obey their coach. We should be willing to give of ourselves completely even when it interferes with our plans. God deserves our respect. You should ask yourself, does my life reflect respect for the Lord?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Numbers 15:17-16:40 Mark 15:1-47
Psalms 54:1-7 Proverbs 11:5-6

THEME: A True Warrior

Mar 12

VERSE: As in water face reflects face, So a man's heart reveals the man. **Proverbs 27:19**

GOD THOUGHTS:

It's easy for a player who is sitting on the bench to talk about what a great player he is, but the truth of this will be shown when he steps on the field. The truth about the player will only be revealed when they step on the field of play. You can't hide the truth then. As a Christian we should understand that our life tells more about our heart than our words do. We can talk about loving God but do our lives reflect His love? If a lost person spent time with you for a day what would they see? We should let God change our heart which will then show up in our lives. Does your life match your words?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Numbers 16:41-18:32 Mark 16:1-20
Psalms 55:1-23 Proverbs 11:7

THEME: Not In Our Strength*Mar 13***VERSE:** I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord sustained me. **Psalms 3:5****GOD THOUGHTS:**

It is easy for an athlete to take his health, talents, and abilities for granted. He works hard to take care of himself. Some athletes who take great care of themselves still get injured. Sometimes their careers are over. They fail to realize that any talent they have comes from God and the ability to eat, breathe, and play comes from Him. This shouldn't be a source of fear, but an opportunity for gratefulness. Knowing this, we should take care of ourselves and also place our trust in God. Give Him glory for another day of life. Does your life reflect gratitude to God?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Numbers 19:1-20:29 Luke 1:1-25
Psalms 56:1-13 Proverbs 11:8

THEME: Law Abiding Citizens

Mar 14

VERSE: Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, **Matthew 22:21**

GOD THOUGHTS:

All players are expected to obey the rules of the game. A player who chooses to flagrantly ignore the rules of the game will find himself in constant trouble and eventually not able to play at all. This sounds harsh, but without rules a game would degenerate into chaos. The same is true in society. The laws are there to protect us from each other. Without them, there would be chaos in the streets. As Christians, God expects us to be examples by obeying the laws. Are you setting a good example by obeying the law?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Numbers 21:1-22:20 Luke 1:26-56
Psalms 57:1-11 Proverbs 11:9-11

THEME: Judgment Day*Mar 15***VERSE:** The Lord shall judge the peoples;
Psalms 7:8**GOD THOUGHTS:**

Every athlete knows that his performance will be evaluated at the end of the season and his future will be decided based upon it. Knowing this, the athlete should work hard everyday in practice and seek to perform well in the games. His judgment will be affected by his day to day actions. The life of everyone on earth will be judged one day. It will come just as sure as the postseason evaluations for the athletes. This judgment will also be based on how we lived our day to day lives. The one key to doing well is having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Are you ready for that day?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Numbers 22:21-23:30 Luke 1:57-80
Psalms 58:1-11 Proverbs 11:12-13

THEME: It's Your Choice

Mar 16

VERSE: Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established. **Proverbs 16:3**

GOD THOUGHTS:

As an athlete, you understand the importance of commitment. You wouldn't want a player on your team who is not committed. This is something that can't be taught. It is a choice. Even more important is our commitment to the Lord. We are admonished to commit our works to the Lord and our thoughts will be established. Commitment is giving ourselves totally to what we endeavor to do. Without commitment, it is so easy to quit, drop out, give up or stop before we reach our goal. Commitment will keep us going when the going gets tough. What's your choice?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Numbers 24:1-25:18 Luke 2:1-35
Psalms 59:1-17 Proverbs 11:14

THEME: Solid Ground*Mar 17*

VERSE: Oh, let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end, But establish the just; **Psalms 7:9**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Most athletes remember their rookie season. Everyday their performance was being judged and their hope was to make the team. All the years of work and sweat will count for nothing if they don't perform well at this time. They could be cast aside. However, if they perform well and make the team the pressure is off. Now they are part of the team and their status is sure. In our walk with God, it is even more important. It is not hard work but our character that is being judged here. God is looking at your life today. Are you making the grade?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Numbers 26:1-51 Luke 2:36-52
Psalms 60:1-12 Proverbs 11:15

THEME: Who's Got Your Back?

Mar 18

VERSE: And those who know Your name will put their trust in You; **Psalms 9:10**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Performance on an athletic field is based upon trust between players. Knowing the player next to you and how they perform can give you additional confidence to take chances knowing someone has your back. All of this is based upon knowing each other. As a Christian, knowing God and what He is capable of doing, can give us confidence in living our lives. We can live a life of faith which literally means taking some risks knowing who has our backs. Do you know Him?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Numbers 26:52-28:15 Luke 3:1-22
Psalms 61:1-8 Proverbs 11:16-17

THEME: On Your Side

Mar 19

VERSE: There they are in great fear, For God is with the generation of the righteous. **Psalms 14:5**

GOD THOUGHTS:

We always want the best players on our team. If we can pick them they will always be chosen first. The team with the better players always feels more confident while the other team feels frustrated with a certain sense of losing. All of these feelings and the results themselves can be determined simply by the addition of the one best player. As Christians, knowing that the all powerful God of the universe is with us should give us great confidence in our daily lives. Without Him, there would be a sense of dread. Do you have the confidence of knowing God is with you?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Numbers 28:16-29:40 Luke 3:23-38
Psalms 62:1-12 Proverbs 11:18-19

THEME: Words of Praise

Mar 20

VERSE: I will sing to the Lord, Because He has dealt bountifully with me. **Psalms 13:6**

GOD THOUGHTS:

It is interesting after a game sometimes to hear players compliment each other on their performance. This is not flattery but sincere praise based upon real performance during the game. They also feel free to criticize as well. In the heat of competition words of praise are earned, not given. Life many times has the feel of a competition and is even more serious. For a Christian who has experienced the blessing and help of God, words of praise should come quite easily. We should take time to remember the goodness of God and His many blessings. As good as God has been to you, are you praising Him?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Numbers 30:1-31:54 Luke 4:1-30
Psalms 63:1-11 Proverbs 11:20-21

THEME: Keeping Your Word

VERSE: He who swears to his own hurt and does not change; **Psalm 15:4**

GOD THOUGHTS:

When a player seeks to be the very best, he learns what is expected so he can please the coach of the team. Once he understands what is expected of him, then he puts in the time and effort in order to achieve the performance required. Then he can enjoy the rewards of his labors. The same principle can also be applied in almost any area of life. As a Christian, this principle is also true. We don't have to guess what God would like to see in our lives. He has made it clear in His Word. All we need to do is read it and live it. Do you keep your word?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Numbers 32:1-33:39 Luke 4:31-5:11
Psalms 64:1-10 Proverbs 11:22

THEME: How's Your Life?

Mar 22

VERSE: And it shall come to pass at that time That I will search Jerusalem with lamps, And punish the men who are settled in complacency,

Zephaniah 1:12

GOD THOUGHTS:

One of the great dangers for an athlete is complacency. Complacency is a feeling of smug satisfaction with ourselves and/or our achievements. When this happens, an athlete quits trying to improve because he sees no need. Very quickly his talent begins to erode and he is beaten by other people with less talent but who are working harder. As Christians, we should never be satisfied with our status with God. We also have an enemy who is just waiting for us to let our guard down so he can defeat us. Are you complacent or are you being diligent with your life?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Numbers 33:40-35:34 Luke 5:12-28

Psalms 65:1-13 Proverbs 11:23

THEME: Vindication

VERSE: Let my vindication come from your presence; **Psalms 17:2**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Most people have been falsely accused of something at one time or another in their lives. This is a tough moment for us because at first it is a shock and we just can't believe what someone is saying we did. We may loudly proclaim our innocence but people assume we are lying to keep ourselves out of trouble. The one thing that can calm these storms is for someone in authority to stand up and say you are innocent. At this moment, we are able to relax. God is the ultimate judge who can say "Not guilty". Are you living in His presence and enjoying His protection?

MY THOUGHTS:**READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Numbers 36:1-Deut. 1:46 Luke 5:29-6:11
Psalms 66:1-20 Proverbs 11:24-26

THEME: Immovable*Mar 24*

VERSE: I have set the Lord always before me;
Because He is at my right hand I shall not be
moved. **Psalms 16:8**

GOD THOUGHTS:

I have seen athletes who seemed to have everything going for them have an incident in their lives and then their lives go downhill. From a loss of a loved one to a personal tragedy, this event in their lives overshadows everything else. Their lives were not built upon a strong enough foundation to withstand the challenges of life. The Bible clearly teaches if we put our trust in Him, when life happens we will be able to stand. Everyone who lives will have to deal with adversity or tragedy. The real question is "Is your life built upon the Lord, so you can withstand these problems?"

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Deuteronomy 2:1-3:29 Luke 6:12-38
Psalms 67:1-7 Proverbs 11:27

THEME: Who Do You Call?

VERSE: I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised; So shall I be saved from my enemies.

Psalm 18:3**GOD THOUGHTS:**

Even athletes have tough moments in life. They have teammates, coaches, and friends to call on. You can tell about these relationships by seeing who they call when they first realize they have a problem. That first person is usually the person they rely on to help them get through tough situations. It is good to have friends and family to rely on when the going gets tough. Too many times even Christians fail to ask for God's help until all their other plans have failed. God is our ultimate help and we should call Him first. So when you have a problem. "Who are you going to call?"

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Deuteronomy 4:1-49 Luke 6:39-7:10
Psalms 68:1-18 Proverbs 11:28

THEME: Trophy Time

Mar 26

VERSE: The Lord rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands He has recompensed me. **Psalms 18:20**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Most athletes play hard and look forward to the end of the season when awards are given out. Everyone would like to be recognized for their performance; as long as it is good. When we know we haven't performed well, we don't want an award to tell us how poorly we did. Sometimes knowing we are close to an award encourages us to try even harder. God will one day give rewards to His people based on their performance. For some, that can make us a little nervous. Based upon how you are living today; what kind of award would you receive?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Deuteronomy 5:1-6:25 Luke 7:11-35
Psalms 68:19-35 Proverbs 11:29-31

THEME: Never Alone*Mar 27***VERSE:** For by you I can run against a troop, By my God I can leap over a wall, **Psalms 18:29****GOD THOUGHTS:**

Many athletes will pray for God to help them but then go out and completely focus on themselves to perform well. Praying for God's help is good and right, but we should also be conscious of the fact that God takes every step with us. At first this may sound distracting, but in the end it should be very encouraging because the God of all the universe is with you every step. Learning to walk in that gave David the confidence even in difficult circumstances. God is not far off. He is there with you and you are not alone? Are you walking in His presence right now?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Deuteronomy 7:1-8:20 Luke 7:36-8:3
Psalms 69:1-18 Proverbs 12:1

THEME: Sure Footing

Mar 28

VERSE: Nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God who gives us richly all things to enjoy.

I Timothy 6:17

GOD THOUGHTS:

For an athlete, there are few things more important to how they play than having sure footing. Sure footing leads to confidence. When athletes are unsure of their footing they can become timid in their playing style. There is always fear that if they try to make a play they will fail because they had put their trust in the condition of the field and the field was not in good condition. Sometimes the field can look good, but when the athlete gets out there, there is only uncertain footing. The Bible tells us to put our trust in God, not money. What are you depending in as you go through life?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Deuteronomy 9:1-10:22 Luke 8:4-21
Psalms 69:19-36 Proverbs 12:2-3

THEME: Better Than Gold

Mar 29

VERSE: More to be desired are they than gold,
Yea, than much fine gold, **Psalms 19:10**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Most athletes are motivated by winning a championship. Some are motivated by money. Some are even motivated by the joy of playing the game. Have you ever asked yourself why do you play? When something motivates us, it shapes our life. All of life becomes about that one thing and how to get more of it. For a lot of people it's money because they think it will solve their problems. They think what is better than this? The Bible tells us that God's Word is better than money. It can save your soul and change your life. What is your life focused on?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Deuteronomy 11:1-12:32 Luke 8:22-39
Psalms 70:1-5 Proverbs 12:4

THEME: Past Performance

Mar 30

VERSE: Our fathers trusted in you; They trusted, and You delivered them. **Psalms 22:4**

GOD THOUGHTS:

As an athlete, we judge other athletes by how they have performed in the past. We devise strategies to help overcome their best player based on how he has performed in the past. If they are good, we expect them to perform good. If they don't play well, we expect them not to play well. This carries over into how we look at people outside of sports. If they are nice to others, we expect them to be nice to us. If we stopped and looked at how God has been faithful to people throughout history, we would know He is faithful to us today. Based on God's past performance, are you trusting Him today?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Deuteronomy 13:1-15:23 Luke 8:40-9:6
Psalms 71:1-24 Proverbs 12:5-7

THEME: Refreshed*Mar 31***VERSE:** He restores my soul; **Psalms 23:3****GOD THOUGHTS:**

Athletes look forward to their days off or even to the offseason so that they can rest. Continuously playing daily can wear your body down over time both physically and emotionally. After a few days of rest, they feel refreshed again. As a Christian, our daily lives can wear us down as well. We become exhausted physically, emotionally, and spiritually. The answer for that is not just a day off or a vacation, although that can help. The real answer is spending time with God. He can refresh your heart. Are you in need of some refreshing?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Deuteronomy 16:1-17:20 Luke 9:7-27
Psalms 72:1-20 Proverbs 12:8-9

THEME: Direct Line*Apr 1***VERSE:** May the King answer us when we call.**Psalm 20:9****GOD THOUGHTS:**

As an athlete, you have the ability to talk to the coach almost any time you want to because you are on the team. For a fan, it would be difficult and maybe impossible to talk to the coach. You would have to talk to a lot of people and they would have to see the need for you to talk to the coach. The greater the person's position, the harder it can be to talk to them. As a Christian, we can talk to the King of all the universe anytime we want. He is never too busy to talk to you. What a privilege we have. Are you talking to the King daily?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Deuteronomy 18:1-20:20 Luke 9:28-50

Psalms 73:1-28 Proverbs 12:10

THEME: The Owner

Apr 2

VERSE: The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness,
The world and those who dwell therein.

Psalm 24:1

GOD THOUGHTS:

If you have watched professional sports, you usually at some point will see the owner. He usually sits in a very nice room where he can watch what is going on. He understands he is ultimately responsible for what happens on the field. As Christians, we have the ultimate owner. He made the earth and all of it's inhabitants. And He is interested in everything that is going on. Nothing happens without Him knowing about it. He cares about every person on this planet. We can trust in His guidance. Have you put your trust in the One who controls everything?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Deuteronomy 21:1-22:30 Luke 9:51-10:12
Psalms 74:1-23 Proverbs 12:11

THEME: Testing

Apr 3

VERSE: Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; Try my mind and my heart. **Psalms 26:2**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Most practices consist of two parts. Instruction from the coach and then scrimmaging. Both parts are important. Instruction helps us know what to do and then scrimmaging helps to take what we have learned and do it in a game situation. This is why it is so important to scrimmage so you can prevent problems before they happen. As Christians, we are good about getting instruction but many times we fail to “scrimmage” or work out how this should look in our lives. David here is asking God to point out any thing that needs to be changed before it becomes a problem. Have you asked God to check out your life?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Deuteronomy 23:1-25:19 Luke 10:13-37
Psalms 75:1-10 Proverbs 12:12-14

THEME: Fearless*Apr 4*

VERSE: The Lord is my light and my salvation;
Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my
life; Of whom shall I be afraid? **Psalms 27:1**

GOD THOUGHTS:

As an athlete, when you take the field against a good team, you cannot be tentative or afraid of them. If a team is afraid, they will perform in such a way that will guarantee their defeat. The only way to combat this is to play fearlessly. It all begins in our mind. All of us face challenging situations in our lives. Many times we are tempted to be afraid. If we give in to this, we usually help ourselves fail. The best news of all is that we are not limited by what we can do. We have help from the Lord who can't fail. Are you trusting in the Lord today?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Deuteronomy 26:1-27:26 Luke 10:38-11:13
Psalms 76:1-12 Proverbs 12:15-17

THEME: A Ready Defense

Apr 5

VERSE: Let integrity and uprightness preserve me,
For I wait for you. **Psalms 25:21**

GOD THOUGHTS:

In sports, athletes always learn about playing defense. Without a good defense, defeat is certain. One of the keys to a good defense is positioning. When you are on offense, you wait for the defense to get out of position and then attack. When you are on defense, you focus on maintaining your positioning. As Christians, we have an enemy who is waiting for us to get out of position in our walk with God so he can attack us. One key to a ready defense is to walk in integrity to repel his attacks. Are you walking in integrity and is your defense ready?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Deuteronomy 28:1-68 Luke 11:14-36
Psalms 77:1-20 Proverbs 12:18

THEME: Not Abandoned*Apr 6*

VERSE: When my father and my mother forsake me, Then the Lord will take care of me.

Psalms 27:10**GOD THOUGHTS:**

For an athlete, trust is essential. You have to be able to trust in the person next to you to play at your full potential. When that trust is gone, you try to overcompensate which means you are trying to play for them and yourself. Which leads to problems. David here is talking about one of the worst breakdowns in relationships. We pretty much count on our parents support and encouragement in life to help get through the tough times. Without them, many of us would be lost. David here reminds us that we can trust in God who will never abandon us. Do you know Him?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Deuteronomy 29:1-30:20 Luke 11:37-12:7
Psalms 78:1-31 Proverbs 12:19-20

THEME: Celebration

Apr 7

VERSE: Therefore my heart greatly rejoices, and with my song I will praise Him. **Psalms 28:7**

GOD THOUGHTS:

That moment when the championship is won, the celebration begins. There is laughter and eventually there is music and singing. I don't know that there has ever been a celebration without singing. They go together. Before the celebration, there was a battle. Many people become so focused on the battle they lose their joy. If we put our trust in the Lord, there will come a day when we will celebrate. We will sing songs of praise to Him. We need to keep trusting Him during the battle. Are you singing songs of praise to Him?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Deuteronomy 31:1-32:27 Luke 12:8-34
Psalms 78:32-55 Proverbs 12:21-23

THEME: Momentum

Apr 8

VERSE: The Lord will give strength to His people;
Psalms 29:11

GOD THOUGHTS:

Sometimes the game is won or lost towards the end when one team gets tired. Other times, a player comes off the bench and a team that looks tired suddenly performs like a brand new team. We talk about effort and momentum changes in games. At times, you can see the whole game change because of momentum and renewed effort. As Christians, many times we work hard and it seems like we are getting tired. Then something changes and we are fresh and ready to keep going on. The difference is the help of the Lord. God does help His people. Are you looking to the Lord for His help in your life?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Deuteronomy 32:28-52 Luke 12:35-59
Psalms 78:56-64 Proverbs 12:24

THEME: Not Defeated

Apr 9

VERSE: I would have lost heart, unless I had believed That I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. **Psalms 27:13**

GOD THOUGHTS:

If you have watched enough sports, you have seen a team lose heart. The effort and intensity drop off and the game is over even if it is very early in the game. All that remains then is the final score. Other times, I have seen teams battle to the end and even occasionally score a big upset. The difference between the two is losing heart and not believing for the victory. We all are going to face tough times, but we do not have to accept defeat and live a defeated life. Do not judge everything by circumstance. God is greater than your circumstance. Do you believe that God is with you in your situation?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Deuteronomy 28:1-68 Luke 11:14-36

Psalms 77:1-20 Proverbs 12:18

THEME: Thanking Jesus

Apr 10

VERSE: O Lord my God, I will give thanks to You forever. **Psalms 30:12**

GOD THOUGHTS:

When someone makes a great play during the game, other players come over and congratulate him. It's a way of saying thank you. When someone makes a play that wins a game, many times he is hugged as a way of celebration and saying thanks, "I am so glad you are on my team." It gets even bigger when they help us win a championship. There is one who has done more for us than any teammate. What He has done is greater than any championship. He continues to help us out in our everyday life. Are you saying, "Thanks, I am glad to be on Your team?"

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Deuteronomy 34:1-Joshua 2:24 Luke 13:22-14:6
Psalms 79:1-13 Proverbs 12:26

THEME: Direction

Apr 11

VERSE: I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with my eye.

Psalms 32:8

GOD THOUGHTS:

One of the biggest parts of being an athlete is knowing what to do next in the middle of the game. Spending time with the coach in practice will give the player a great deal of understanding about what the coach expects. There are also times in the middle of the game when an athlete will look to the coach for direction. As a Christian, we should spend time with God and His word in order to know what He asks of us in our daily lives. There will be moments and situations when we need to look directly to Him for direction. He has promised to help us. Where do you look for direction?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Joshua 3:1-4:24 Luke 14:7-35
Psalms 80:1-19 Proverbs 12:27-28

THEME: Playing Fair

Apr 12

VERSE: For the word of the Lord is right, and all His work is done in truth. **Psalms 33:4**

GOD THOUGHTS:

When it comes to sports, most people focus on winning. When it becomes winning at all costs, then it crosses a line and ceases being about the sport and is about people's egos. Some coaches will try to teach their players to cheat in ways they won't get caught. When they are caught, they just say they were trying to win. When this translates into society, people feel free to break laws if it benefits them. This can easily lead to chaos. As a Christian, we should put our confidence for success in the Lord and obey His word. Are you living in such a way that God can bless you?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Joshua 5:1-7:15 Luke 15:1-32
Psalms 81:1-16 Proverbs 13:1

THEME: Say No To Discouragement*Apr 13*

VERSE: Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart, All you who hope in the Lord. **Psalms 31:24**

GOD THOUGHTS:

All athletes, in the midst of a tough game or a string of losing, must battle with discouragement. When you are discouraged, you have less energy and motivation because you have lost hope. Many times we would look for something good to happen to regain our courage. Instead of looking to outward circumstances, Christians should look to God for encouragement. Knowing that He loves us and will never leave us should give us courage to go on. When we have our hopes in Him, He gives us courage. Are you looking to circumstances or God for hope for the future?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Joshua 7:16-9:2 Luke 16:1-18
Psalms 82:1-8 Proverbs 13:2-3

THEME: Dynasty*Apr 14***VERSE:** Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, **Psalms 33:12****GOD THOUGHTS:**

When a team wins several championships in a row people talk of a dynasty. Other teams begin to focus on their organization to copy it. They want to know the key to their success. They often will go to great lengths to achieve it. This is a very difficult distinction to achieve in sports. As Christians, God has already shown the way for a nation to be blessed. When we do things according to His plans, He blesses us. A wise person would build his life around what would bring the most fulfillment to him. This can only be found in God. Is your life built around Him?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Joshua 9:3-10:43 Luke 16:19-17:10
Psalms 83:1-18 Proverbs 13:4

THEME: Access Granted*Apr 15*

VERSE: The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart. **Psalms 34:18**

GOD THOUGHTS:

For an athlete to come in to a coach with demands and attitude usually guarantees an argument and some consequences for the player. But if that same athlete comes in quietly and asks to speak to the coach, he will get the time he wanted. The subject can be the same. The difference is in the attitude. Just as it's important to watch our attitude when we approach someone in authority, it's even more important to approach the King of Kings with a humble attitude. The attitude determines our audience. Do you approach the Lord with a humble heart?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Joshua 11:1-12:24 Luke 17:11-37
Psalms 84:1-12 Proverbs 13:5-6

THEME: Praise*Apr 16*

VERSE: And my tongue shall speak of Your righteousness And of Your praise all the day long.
Psalms 35:28

GOD THOUGHTS:

It is interesting to hear athletes talk about their coach. Recently a player was being interviewed on television and he repeatedly gave credit for his teams success to his coach and his leadership. This player took no credit because he knew that even with the same players but a different coach it would have not been good. As Christians, when someone asks us about our blessings and success, we should point all attention to God. Without Him, it is a guarantee that our lives would be worse. Are you praising God for the good things in your life?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Joshua 13:1-14:15 Luke 18:1-17
Psalms 85:1-13 Proverbs 13:7-8

THEME: Favor*Apr 17*

VERSE: Behold the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His mercy.

Psalm 33:18**GOD THOUGHTS:**

An athlete works hard in practice and in games in order to gain the favor of the coach. This favor will grant more playing time, favorable positions, and even grace when he makes a mistake. To an athlete, the favor of the coach is very important. As Christians, the favor of God is even more important. This will grant us time with the King of Kings, answers to prayer, blessings, and even grace when we make mistakes. What an awesome privilege it is to have the favor of God. It has nothing to do with our ability and everything to do with our character. Are you living in God's favor?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Joshua 15:1-63 Luke 18:18-43
Psalms 86:1-17 Proverbs 13:9-10

THEME: Respect for Authority*Apr 18***VERSE:** There is no fear of God before his eyes.**Psalm 36:1****GOD THOUGHTS:**

For an athlete, the quickest way to mediocrity is losing respect for coaches and officials. He has begun to rely on his own talent and feels superior to others. His talent will keep him around for awhile, but eventually people will tire of his poor performance and he will soon find himself out of the game. What could have been greatness ends in self-destruction. As Christians, the quickest way to a messed up life is to lose our fear of God. It is a trap to think that we don't need to live under God's authority. Do you live in respect for God?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Joshua 16:1-18:28 Luke 19:1-27
Psalms 87:1-7 Proverbs 13:11

THEME: Control Your Anger

Apr 19

VERSE: Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret-it only causes harm. **Psalms 37:8**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Playing with a player who gets angry a lot is no fun. They often use their anger to control situations. In time, people would rather find something else to do than play with that player. The angry person is blind to the fact that anger only tears down; it does not have the power to build anything. Outside of sports, the situation is the same. Most people would go out of their way to avoid spending time with an angry person. These people cause much damage to relationships without even realizing it. If you have a problem with anger, will you let God help you?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Joshua 19:1-20:9 Luke 19:28-48
Psalms 88:1-18 Proverbs 13:12-14

THEME: What Really Matters

Apr 20

VERSE: A little that a righteous man has is better than the riches of many wicked. **Psalms 37:16**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Some athletes seem to have everything. They have ability and quickly become wealthy. But due to their poor character, they often end up alone and broke. Another player with less ability and less money always has friends and gets a lot of joy out of life. The ultimate difference was not in their ability but in their life. Choosing righteousness will bring about abundance in joy and peace. That makes any house a happy home. To have a good life, one must focus on things that really matter. How would God describe your life today?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Joshua 21:1-22:20 Luke 20:1-26
Psalms 89:1-13 Proverbs 13:15-16

THEME: Avoid Frustration

Apr 21

VERSE: Do not fret because of evildoers, nor be envious of workers of iniquity. **Psalms 37:1**

GOD THOUGHTS:

As an athlete, it is easy to become frustrated when an opponent uses illegal tactics and seems to get away with them. We see them benefiting from breaking the rules and we become angry. We are tempted as well to break the rules to get ahead. We see people do this in life, outside of sports, to get ahead. People who seem to do nothing right seemingly have enormous success while those who do right are struggling. God is saying don't be frustrated and allow yourself to be tempted to sin as well. In time, He will make it right. Are you frustrated by others actions or are you trusting in Him?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Joshua 22:21-23:16 Luke 20:27-47
Psalms 89:14-37 Proverbs 13:17-19

THEME: Long Term Investment

Apr 22

VERSE: The Lord knows the days of the upright.
And their inheritance shall be forever. **Psalms 37:18**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Some people work out in such a way as to have big muscles. They look good but are not very flexible. An athlete does not always have the biggest muscles, but he trains in such a way as to have longer lasting strength. No one wants to be good for a few minutes; they want their ability to last. Living for God is the ultimate long term investment. We can't take the things of this world with us when we die. But we can invest in things that will last forever. That is the ultimate investment. Is what you are focused on today going to last forever?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Joshua 24:1-33 Luke 21:1-28
Psalms 89:38-52 Proverbs 13:20-23

THEME: Solid As A Rock*Apr 23*

VERSE: And now, Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in You. **Psalms 39:7**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Part of playing on a team is depending on other players. Never is that more important than in that moment that the game is on the line. Games are won and lost in that moment. The single thought of the teammates is, "don't let us down." It is a responsibility not to be taken lightly. As believers in Christ we also have a responsibility to each others. God also has a responsibility to us. God's responsibility is to keep His word. That is why we can count on Him when the going gets tough. He is someone we can trust. Is your hope in Him?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Judges 1:1-2:9 Luke 21:29-22:13
Psalms 90:1-91:16 Proverbs 13:24-25

THEME: Thinking of You

Apr 24

VERSE: And Your thoughts toward us Cannot be recounted to You in order; if I would declare and speak of them, They are more than can be numbered. **Psalms 40:5**

GOD THOUGHTS:

One of the highest compliments we can give someone is to spend time thinking about them. Athletes tend to spend time thinking about their next game and picture themselves performing well. Lovers tend to spend time thinking about each other. Parents tend to spend time thinking about their children. For Christians, it is not any different. We should spend time thinking about God. What we often forget is that God spends time thinking about us. According to the Bible, God spends more time thinking of us than we can comprehend. How does it make you feel to know how much He thinks of you?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Judges 2:10-3:31 Luke 22:14-34
Psalms 92:1-93:5 Proverbs 14:1-2

THEME: Well Pleasing

Apr 25

VERSE: The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, And He delights in his way. **Psalms 37:23**

GOD THOUGHTS:

For an athlete, the best way to please his coach is to follow his game plan. The coach spends time making the plan for the players and teaches it to them and expects them to do it in the game. By following the instructions, it gives the team the best chance to win the game. This mirrors the Christian walk perfectly. God has made a plan for each one of us and is waiting to show it to us. Just like a coach, God expects us to follow His plan for our lives. We please Him when we follow His plan. Are you following His plan for your life?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Judges 4:1-5:31 Luke 22:35-53
Psalms 94:1-23 Proverbs 14:3-4

THEME: Compassion*Apr 26*

VERSE: Blessed is he who considers the poor; The Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. **Psalm 41:1**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Athletics is a world built upon conquest. Some people consider kindness toward the other team a weakness. In truth, it is just a game and that should help keep our emotions in check. Outside of the sports world kindness should be our trademark. As Christians, our trademark should be our kindness and love to all people. In this verse, God places special emphasis on the poor. God makes a promise that if we will consider the poor and help them, then He will come and help us in our time of trouble. Do you consider the poor or do you overlook them?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Judges 6:1-40 Luke 22:54-23:12
Psalms 95:1-96:13 Proverbs 14:5-6

THEME: There is Hope

Apr 27

VERSE: Why are you cast down, O my soul? ... Hope in God; For I shall yet praise Him, The help of my countenance and my God. **Psalms 42:11**

GOD THOUGHTS:

As an athlete, we always hope to win the next game. Many times we use the word hope more as a want or desire. What is your hope based on? That you play better or that they are not a good team. True hope has a foundation that it is based on. As a Christian, you have more reason to have hope than anyone else. Because our hope is not based on our feelings or our abilities, it is based upon God. My hope is based upon the fact that God always keeps His word and His love for me. Knowing that, I am never hopeless. What is your hope based on?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Judges 7:1-8:17 Luke 23:13-43
Psalms 97:1-98:9 Proverbs 14:7-8

THEME: Game Plan

Apr 28

VERSE: We have heard with our ears, O God,
Our Fathers have told us, The deeds You did in their
days, In days of old: **Psalm 44:1**

GOD THOUGHTS:

As a player, you know that game plans are based upon what worked against a particular team in the past. In short, your plan for the next game is really based upon what happened in previous games. The best guide for the future is often found in the past. For Christians, we look at the Bible to see how God acted in certain situations. At times, it should scare us and other times we should find comfort in the Bible. God has revealed everything we need to know how to live a life pleasing to Him and blessed by Him. Is your life based upon the Bible?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Judges 8:18-9:21 Luke 23:44-24:12
Psalms 99:1-9 Proverbs 14:9-10

THEME: The Great Physician

Apr 29

VERSE: The Lord will strengthen him on his bed of illness; You will sustain him on his sickbed.

Psalm 41:3

GOD THOUGHTS:

When an athlete is injured, he gets prompt medical attention so that he can be restored to health and play again as soon as possible. The player relies on the skill of the doctor to diagnose and treat his injury knowing that his future as a player could be dependent upon proper treatment. As Christians, we have more than just a doctor looking out for us. We have the God of all the universe. Many times He has helped us and we were not even aware of it. An illness should not just drive us to the doctor but also to prayer as well. Will you pray the next time you have an illness?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Judges 9:22-10:18 Luke 24:13-53
Psalms 100:1-5 Proverbs 14:11-12

THEME: History in Motion*Apr 30***VERSE:** My tongue is the pen of a ready writer.**Psalms 45:1****GOD THOUGHTS:**

A good athlete knows the history of his sport. What he doesn't even think about is that yesterday's game is also history and can be studied as a learning tool. Every moment in a game goes from being in the present to history. Daily we are writing a history of our lives. We can write the kind of history we would love our children to read or we can write the kind of history we would hope no one ever knows about. Our history is made up of the choices and decisions we make daily. What kind of history is your life writing?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Judges 11:1-12:15 John 1:1-28
Psalms 101:1-8 Proverbs 14:13-14

THEME: Focus*May 1*

VERSE: Be still, and know that I am God;
Psalms 46:10

GOD THOUGHTS:

An athlete cannot afford to get distracted. A moment of distraction can cost a team the game or even a championship. So athletes do all they can to deal with and avoid distractions so they can perform well. For a Christian, it is even more important to not lose focus. A moment of distraction can cost a lifetime of pain and regret. Life is more important than a game. There are many distractions in this world; television, music, other people, not to mention our own desires. Are you pushing aside distractions so that your focus is on God?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Judges 13:1-14:20 John 1:29-51
Psalms 102:1-28 Proverbs 14:15-16

THEME: Enthusiasm

May 2

VERSE: Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; **Ecclesiastes 9:10**

GOD THOUGHTS:

One of the enemies of athletes is the loss of enthusiasm. We have all seen players perform when it didn't seem that their heart was in it. A player can perform rote, memorized actions all day. But it takes enthusiasm to take their play to the highest level. It's easy to see the difference. The Bible tells us if we deem anything worthy of doing we should do it with enthusiasm. God gave us the ability to care about what we are doing. As Christians, our actions testify of His greatness so we should always seek to give our best. Are you giving your all to what you are doing today?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Judges 15:1-16:31 John 2:1-25
Psalms 103:1-22 Proverbs 14:17-19

THEME: Trophy

VERSE: He will choose our inheritance for us,
Psalm 47:4

GOD THOUGHTS:

Athletes spend untold hours sweating and working hard to obtain a trophy they don't even get to pick out. I have never seen an athlete refuse to lift the trophy in celebration and, in many cases, have seen them kiss it. That moment, the design of the trophy is not important; having won it is. As Christians, we are getting a custom made reward just for us. The God of the universe, who loves us more than we can imagine, is preparing a reward just for us individually. That's a lot of rewards, but it is a labor of love. Are you excited about your reward?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Judges 17:1-18:31 John 3:1-21
 Psalms 104:1-24 Proverbs 14:20-21

THEME: A Song Worth Singing

May 4

VERSE: For God is the King of all the earth; Sing praises with understanding. **Psalms 47:7**

GOD THOUGHTS:

For an athlete, it should be exciting to hear loyal fans singing the team's "fight song". Some songs remind us of our loyalty to our country. Others remind us of a person dear to us. Many others are frivolous and only serve to entertain us. Have you ever considered how it makes God feel when we sing songs of love and devotion to Him? When it comes time to declare our love and devotion to God, I want to sing something that reflects how I feel personally; not something frivolous. When you sing a song to God does it reflect how you feel about Him?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Judges 19:1-20:48 John 3:22-4:3
Psalms 104:24-35 Proverbs 14:22-24

THEME: Safety Valve

May 5

VERSE: God is in her palaces; He is known as her refuge. **Psalms 48:3**

GOD THOUGHTS:

The fun part of sports is having things go well. The other thing you practice and prepare for is when things don't go well. Teams work very hard to prepare for this. They know that, though things aren't going well, it doesn't mean the game is over. By refocusing on their objectives, they can still win the game. In life, outside of sports, this concept is just as important. Just because circumstances are not good does not mean it is a failure. In those times, we should get closer to God and refocus on His priorities. Our lives can turn around. Are you turning to God in your tough times?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Judges 21:1-Ruth 1:22 John 4:4-42
Psalms 105:1-15 Proverb 14:25

THEME: Pregame Speech

May 6

VERSE: My mouth shall speak wisdom, And the meditation of my heart shall give understanding.

Psalms 49:3

GOD THOUGHTS:

Before a game, it is often that pregame speech right before a contest that help players focus and perform with enthusiasm. If a coach does a poor job here, his players may come out and perform without much enthusiasm. For this reason, words should be chosen carefully and come from the heart. In our daily lives, we should also choose our words carefully. God's word is full of encouragement and is able to give us purpose for our daily lives. When we neglect to remember His words, we go out and live without much enthusiasm. Trouble lurks for us. Are we facing each day with the encouragement of God's word?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Ruth 2:1-4:22 John 4:43-54
Psalms 105:16-36 Proverbs 14:26-27

THEME: Excuses*May 7*

VERSE: but now they have no excuse for their sin.
John 15:22

GOD THOUGHTS:

Athletes prepare methodically for a game. Coaches try to prepare them for every scenario they will encounter so they can do well in every situation. Occasionally in a game, a situation arises that a player is not sure what to do and it usually does not go well. The player says, "I didn't know what to do." However, when it is a situation they have practiced and prepared for, the player has no excuse. In our lives, God has literally made a way that we can know what to do in every situation. For us to do the wrong thing leaves us without excuse. Are you trying to make excuses or are you accepting responsibility for your actions?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

1 Samuel 1:1-2:21 John 5:1-23
Psalms 105:37-45 Proverbs 14:28-29

THEME: Intimidation

May 8

VERSE: They saw it, and so they marveled; They were troubled, they hastened away. **Psalms 48:5**

GOD THOUGHTS:

There are times that games are won and lost before they start. Some teams are so intimidated by looking at the other team and watching them warmup that in their hearts the game is already lost. Whether it's their size or skill level, they can try to act brave, but a wise team will seize on this intimidation and attack. When Satan sees who is walking with us, he is intimidated. What he has learned is sometimes we forget who is with us and we approach life discouraged. In those moments, he steals victories that should have been ours. Are you walking in the confidence that the presence of God is in your life?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



1 Samuel 2:22-4:22 John 5:24-47
Psalms 106:1-12 Proverbs 14:30-31

THEME: Perspective

VERSE: Why should I fear in the days of evil,
Psalms 49:5

GOD THOUGHTS:

In the midst of a game, it is important not to panic when you get behind. When panic sets in, more mistakes are made and the game is lost. When this emotion is controlled, it allows the team an opportunity to get back into the game and win it. Fear is a terrible emotion. It can cause us to believe we have failed when the initial circumstances aren't favorable. Perspective tells us that initial circumstances don't always dictate the results and we should continue. Fear wants us to quit. Are you trusting in God even when things aren't looking good?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

1 Samuel 5:1-7:17 John 6:1-21
 Psalms 106:13-31 Proverbs 14:32-33

THEME: Paying Attention

May 10

VERSE: What right have you to declare My statutes, Or take My covenant in your mouth, Seeing you hate instruction And cast My words behind you? **Psalms 50:16-17**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Every team has captains. They are usually one of the older or more talented players. Their job is to be the coaches representative on the field. Imagine what would happen if the captain did not listen to the coach and made decisions opposite of the coach. This player would not be a captain very long because he didn't listen to the coach. God, in these verses, is asking why do people pretend to be Christians when they don't pay any attention to what He is asking them to do. God has no patience for this type of living. Are we obeying God before we try to teach others?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



1 Samuel 8:1-9:27 John 6:22-42
Psalms 106:32-48 Proverbs 14:34-35

THEME: Knowing Your Limits

May 11

VERSE: None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him-

Psalms 49:7

GOD THOUGHTS:

As an athlete, it is important to know your limitations. Someone may be faster or can jump higher than you. In order to be the best player you can be, you must do what you do well. The surest way to failure is try to do the things that are beyond your abilities. In the spiritual realm, this is even more important. To try to do for others what only God can do is a sure recipe for failure. Our value in our service to God lies in using our God given gifts to serve others. Knowing what our limits are and what our gifts are, are the key to our lives. Are you trying to do something that only God can do?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



1 Samuel 10:1-11:15 John 6:43-71
Psalms 107:1-43 Proverbs 15:1-3

THEME: Life After Sports

VERSE: For he sees wise men die; Likewise the fool and the senseless person perish, And leave their wealth to others, **Psalm 49:10**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Something that most athletes don't like to think about is life after sports. But no one gets to play forever. Their career in sports will one day come to an end. A failure to think about this and prepare for it will guarantee difficulty. There is no second chance to prepare for life after sports. A wise person does it early in their career. A close parallel is that one must be prepared for the afterlife. Heaven or hell await. Many would like to go back and change things, but there are no second chances. Are you ready for this life to end?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

1 Samuel 12:1-13:23 John 7:1-30
Psalms 108:1-13 Proverbs 15:4

THEME: Need Help?*May 13*

VERSE: Whoever offers praise glorifies Me; And to him who orders his conduct aright I will show the salvation of God. **Psalms 50:23**

GOD THOUGHTS:

One of the requirements of a coach for his athletes is to follow all of his instructions. The two things an athlete can't do are talk bad about the coach and not obey his instructions. If an athlete fails at one or both of these, the coach will no longer try to make him a better player. Why would we think any less of God working in our lives. We should only speak well of someone we are trusting to help us. If we truly want help, we will follow the instructions we are given. God is willing to help you; are you willing to follow His commands?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

1 Samuel 14:1-52 John 7:31-53
Psalms 109:1-31 Proverbs 15:5-7

THEME: Rely on Him

VERSE: Save me, O God, by Your name, And vindicate me by Your strength. **Psalms 54:1**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Every team has somebody they rely on when the going gets tough. These are your star players. The other team knows who you are looking to, but they can't stop him. What a comfort to know they are constantly on your team and you know you can count on them. God fills the same role in our lives. He is constantly there for us. He looks out for us and protects us. When the going gets tough, we don't have to wonder who to turn to or where to look for help. He is already there for you. Are you relying on Him in your daily life?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

1 Samuel 15:1-16:23 John 8:1-20
Psalms 110:1-7 Proverbs 15:8-10

THEME: Foolish Thinking

May 15

VERSE: The fool has said in his heart, There is no God. **Psalms 53:1**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Some athletes have such confidence in themselves they think they can continuously not take care of their bodies without any consequences. At first they notice no difference. Over time their performance goes down and most never are able to turn their lives around. If we think we can live as we please and ignore God's instructions and not have consequences, then we are engaged in foolish thinking. Once we start down this road, we can't go back and undo the damage we have caused to ourselves and others. Are you living your life like there is no God?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



1 Samuel 17:1-18:4 John 8:21-30
Psalms 111:1-10 Proverbs 15:11

THEME: The Avenger

VERSE: Behold, God is my helper; The Lord is with those who uphold my life. He will repay my enemies for their evil. **Psalms 54:4-5**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Those moments in the heat of battle when we feel the other team has intentionally wronged us and gotten away with it, we are tempted to try to avenge our teammate. What normally happens is we are caught and our team is penalized. Then we are left with the frustration of our injustice and our attempt at vengeance that failed. There is a better way. When we have been wronged, we should appeal to a higher power. An attempt to get vengeance ourselves puts us in the role of playing God. We should leave vengeance in His hands and focus on living our lives. Have you surrendered your desire for vengeance to God?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

1 Samuel 18:5-19:24 John 8:31-59
Psalms 112:1-10 Proverbs 15:12-14

THEME: Staying Power

May 17

VERSE: Cast your burden on the Lord, And He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved. **Psalms 55:22**

GOD THOUGHTS:

It happens occasionally that a star athlete has some kind of personal tragedy, whether it be a divorce or the death of a family member. Many times, they never seem to recover and their careers go downhill. What happened to them had no effect on their physical ability, but on their mental and emotional ability. This impacts their total life. No one is exempt from tragedy. But God promises that if we will cast our burdens on Him and live according to His principles, He will help us get through the tough times. Now is the time to put your trust in Him before tragedy strikes. Are you trusting Him today?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



1 Samuel 20:1-21:15 John 9:1-41
Psalm 113:1-114:8 Proverbs 15:15-17

THEME: Where is Your Help?**VERSE:** Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You.**Psalms 56:3****GOD THOUGHTS:**

Life can be dangerous sometimes. Anytime there is the potential for a dangerous situation, the athletes are briefed ahead of time and told where to go for protection. Then they depend on the coach to let them know when to seek cover. When the signal is given, the athletes run quickly to their protected area. As Christians, we have a place to turn to when the situation gets dangerous. We can turn to God. He is near and He is watching out for us constantly. When the going gets tough, where do you turn for help?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

1 Samuel 22:1-23:29 John 10:1-21

Psalm 115:1-18 Proverbs 15:18-19

THEME: Are You Listening?

May 19

VERSE: Because they do not change, Therefore they do not fear God. **Psalms 55:19**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Has the coach ever asked you, "Are you listening to me?" That is an embarrassing moment. His concern is not with your embarrassment, but that you take what he is telling you and use it in the game. Not putting emphasis on what the coach asks you to do shows a lack of respect for him. So the question is really do you have enough respect for the coach to do what he asks you to do? God asks the very same question. He expects you to have enough love for Him to obey Him. God is asking you today, "Are you listening?"

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



1 Samuel 24:1-25:44 John 10:22-42
Psalms 116:1-19 Proverbs 15:20-21

THEME: What's The Worst They Can Do?*May 20*

VERSE: In God I have put my trust; I will not fear.
What can flesh do to me? **Psalms 56:4**

GOD THOUGHTS:

As an athlete, panic is not an option. Understanding of situations helps us to handle them well. Sometimes we need to ask ourselves what's the worst thing that can happen? Knowing this guides our reaction. A player who has a good chance to score against your team should get a stronger reaction than one who has a poor chance to score. As a Christian, we should know that God is there for us and that the worst thing the devil can do is to cause us to lose our physical life. No one can take our salvation away from us. We should never panic or act in fear because; what is the worst he can do?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

1 Samuel 26:1-28:25 John 11:1-54
Psalms 117:1-2 Proverbs 15:22-23

THEME: Know Who to Call

May 21

VERSE: I will cry out to God Most High, To God who performs all things for me. **Psalms 57:2**

GOD THOUGHTS:

As an athlete, knowing your teammates helps you do well in tough situations. You wouldn't want your worst player to take the game deciding shot; you would want your best player to do it. You put your best defender out there to stop their best offensive player. Knowing what they can do guides your decisions. You know who to ask depending on what you need. As Christians, we have a much easier task. We don't have to decide from a multitude of options. There is only one God and He is the best at everything. So no matter what your problem, who are you going to call?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



1 Samuel 29:1-31:13 John 11:55-12:19
Psalm 118:1-18 Proverbs 15:24-26

THEME: Rewards

VERSE: Surely there is a reward for the righteous;
Surely He is a God who judges in the earth.

Psalms 58:11

GOD THOUGHTS:

For athletes, there are temptations to take shortcuts to success. People try to break the rules in such a way as not to get caught. While there may be some short term benefits, eventually your reputation will catch up with you and your reputation will be bad. What you thought would get you ahead has only served to bring you down. As a Christian, there are temptations to take shortcuts to get what we want instead of trusting in God to provide for us. We begin to look just like lost people. True rewards are found in doing the right thing. Do you trust God enough to do the right things and wait for His rewards?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

2 Samuel 1:1-2:11 John 12:20-50
Psalm 118:19-29 Proverbs 15:27-28

THEME: Stability*May 23***VERSE:** My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast: **Psalms 57:7****GOD THOUGHTS:**

As an athlete, you cannot allow a difficult situation to make you quit. You have to reach down and recommit yourself to playing as hard as you can. How you respond to the adverse situation can determine if the game is won or lost. We should never lose heart or give up in difficult circumstances. As Christians, we should value determination as well. We have a great God on our side and no situation is over until He says it's over. He can and does do miracles at times in this world. Knowing this, we should never give up. Do you have staying power to keep going because of your relationship with God?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

2 Samuel 2:12-3:39 John 13:1-30
Psalms 119:1-16 Proverbs 15:29-30

THEME: My Helper

May 24

VERSE: Give us help from trouble, For the help of man is useless. **Psalms 60:11**

GOD THOUGHTS:

There are moments in games when you know that you need help. You look over to the bench and see who is going to come into the game to help. When you see certain players move towards the field, your spirits lift and you feel excited because help is on the way. For Christians, we don't have to worry about who is going to come and help us because we know that we can count on God. Because He is God, He can do things that people can't. It is great to know that we can depend on God. Are you allowing God to help you?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



2 Samuel 4:1-6:23 John 13:31-14:14
Psalms 119:17-32 Proverbs 15:31-32

THEME: Confidence Restored

May 25

VERSE: Through God we will do valiantly, For it is He who shall tread down our enemies. **Psalm 60:12**

GOD THOUGHTS:

In sporting events, when a team's best player leaves the field injured, there is usually a letdown which the other team tries to use to their advantage. Yet even when their down, if they look up and see their star player running back onto the field, their confidence returns and their level of play improves. In life, if we try to face problems alone, it is easy to get discouraged and feel like we are losing the battle. Yet when we sense the presence of God and He shows His power in the situation, our confidence soars because we know victory is at hand. Are you putting your confidence in God to win the victory?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



2 Samuel 7:1-8:18 John 14:15-31
Psalm 119:33-48 Proverbs 15:33

THEME: False Help

VERSE: If riches increase, Do not set your heart on them. **Psalms 62:10**

GOD THOUGHTS:

There are times that athletes make plays or perform far above their skill level. We rejoice at their great performance at a key time. But it would be wrong to expect that kind of performance from them all of the time. This expectation would lead to frustration and disappointment. In life outside of sports, people find other things to put their trust in that are just as unreliable. One of those is money. Some believe if they just had more money all of their problems would be solved. This hope would again lead to frustration and disappointment. Are you trusting in God?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

2 Samuel 9:1-11:27 John 15:1-27
Psalm 119:49-64 Proverbs 16:1-3

THEME: Daily Workout

May 27

VERSE: So I will sing praise to Your name forever,
That I may daily perform my vows. **Psalm 61:8**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Athletes know and value the importance of daily exercise. They are aware that even a few days without training will make a difference in their performance. So even on days when they don't feel like it, they go and work out because they want to avoid the consequences. They know to perform at their highest level, they must exercise daily. What is true in the physical is also true in the spiritual. It only takes a day or two of missed time with the Lord before we are susceptible to temptation and our witness shows the effects. Are you daily working to keep yourself spiritually sharp?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



2 Samuel 12:1-31 John 16:1-33
Psalm 119:65-80 Proverbs 16:4-5

THEME: Right Reward

May 28

VERSE: For You render to each one according to his work. **Psalms 62:12**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Athletes are motivated by awards. Whether it be a championship or being named the Most Valuable Player, these awards keep athletes working longer and harder than they would if they did not exist. Unfortunately, there are times in sports when it seems like the wrong player was rewarded. These things cause arguments but there is nothing that can be done about it. We all say we want a fair judging of our work. God is the only fair judge. Knowing He will judge our work should both make us nervous and make us happy. He will judge correctly. What would God say about your life?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



2 Samuel 13:1-39 John 17:1-26
Psalm 119:81-96 Proverbs 16:6-7

THEME: Early Start*May 29***VERSE:** O God, You are my God; Early will I seek you; **Psalms 63:1****GOD THOUGHTS:**

When an athlete is focused on improving his performance, he will be found working out while the other athletes are still in bed. You won't have to ask them to come early; they will willingly be there early and often stay late after practice. When something is important, getting up early no longer seems like a burden; it becomes a joy. As a believer in Christ, if we want to grow spiritually, then we must take the same approach. One way that we can get more time in our days is to get up earlier. Is your time with God important enough for you to get up early?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

2 Samuel 14:1-15:22 John 18:1-24
Psalm 119:97-112 Proverbs 16:8-9

THEME: Follow the Leader*May 30***VERSE:** My soul follows close behind You;
Psalms 63:8**GOD THOUGHTS:**

There are certain players that, when we watch them play, we want to play like them. We will watch them play and listen to them talk. If we can, we will practice with them. We will do anything to become more like them. This motivation can sometimes help a struggling player become better. For a believer in Christ, our Leader should be Jesus. We should read about Him, talk to Him in prayer, and even try to live our lives like Him. There should be no sacrifice too great for us to make in our pursuit of being like Jesus. We become like who we are following. Are you following Jesus?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

2 Samuel 15:23-16:23 John 18:25-19:22
Psalm 119:113-128 Proverbs 16:10-11

THEME: Meditate

May 31

VERSE: I remember You on my bed; I meditate on You in the night watches. **Psalms 63:6**

GOD THOUGHTS:

The night before a big game, many athletes don't sleep; instead, they are mentally thinking of the game and the plays they hope to make. This mental walkthrough of the game and performance is called meditation. Some athletes believe they perform better because of meditating on their performance. A Christian should also meditate at night. Their thoughts should be focused on the goodness of God. Another thing to meditate on is thinking about obeying the Lord in tough situations. This can help us to live better lives. Do you spend your nights meditating on God?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



2 Samuel 17:1-29 John 19:23-42
Psalm 119:129-152 Proverbs 16:12-13

THEME: Strategy

June 1

VERSE: Hide me from the secret plots of the wicked, **Psalms 64:2**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Any athlete going into a game would do well to remember that the other team has a coach and it is his job to figure out a way to defeat their team. It's not just a team running around, but there is a strategy in place to defeat their team. They should become aware of the strategy and how this can be countered. All believers in Jesus should be aware that their enemy has a strategy to defeat them. We are not simply living our lives. Our enemy has a plan to cause us to be ineffective for God and to ultimately destroy us. We should be aware of his schemes. Are you looking to God for His strategy for your life?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



2 Samuel 18:1-19:10 John 20:1-31
Psalm 119:153-176 Proverbs 16:14-15

THEME: Chosen*June 2*

VERSE: Blessed is the man you choose,
Psalms 65:4

GOD THOUGHTS:

For an athlete, there is no greater honor than being chosen by a team. The better the team, the greater the honor. This can give a player greater confidence and even boost his level of play. Careers can be revived sometimes by a player feeling chosen. For a Christian, there is no greater honor than knowing that you have been chosen by the King of Kings. It wasn't based on our ability, so we shouldn't be prideful. It should give us confidence and change how we live our lives. How do you feel about being chosen by the King of Kings?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

2 Samuel 19:11-20:13 John 21:1-25
Psalm 120:1-7 Proverbs 16:16-17

THEME: Rules*June 3*

VERSE: He rules by His power forever;
Psalm 66:7

GOD THOUGHTS:

Sometimes athletes get to feeling they are so great they don't have to live by the same rules as everyone else. They want to make their own rules. The belief is that their athletic ability gives them the right to live according to their own wishes. The problem with this is that their right to rule is based upon a temporary foundation. God is the only one who has the right to make rules that last forever because His ability to rule and reign will last forever. He can see how His rules impact people. Who makes the rules in your life?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

2 Samuel 20:14-21:22 Acts 1:1-26
Psalms 121:1-8 Proverb 16:18

THEME: Hero Worship

June 4

VERSE: Say to God, How awesome are Your works! Through the greatness of Your power Your enemies shall submit themselves to You. **Psalms 66:3**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Many times, athletes are given special privileges and are given things by people who admire their athletic abilities. This "hero worship" can sometimes cause athletes to think that they really are special or better than other people. In truth, their abilities were given to them by God, so all they are really doing is using them. There is only one who is truly great and worthy of our worship. He deserves our admiration and devotion. We should be careful not to give praise that belongs to God to people whom God created. Who do you worship?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



2 Samuel 22:1-23:23 Acts 2:1-47
Psalm 122:1-9 Proverbs 16:19-20

THEME: Getting Into Shape*June 5*

VERSE: For You, O God, have tested us; You have refined us as silver is refined. **Psalms 66:10**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Training camp is something athletes dread. It is a time of severe testing of their physical and emotional abilities. Why then do athletes do this? Because they know at the end they will be in better shape and will be able to perform at a higher level during the games. They know it only lasts a short time. What a perfect example of the suffering in the life of a Christian. It lasts for only a short time but it tests us sometimes to the point we think will break. In the end though, we emerge stronger and better able to live for God. Is God getting you into shape?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

2 Samuel 23:24-24:25 Acts 3:1-26
Psalms 123:1-4 Proverbs 16:21-23

THEME: Relationship

June 6

VERSE: If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear. **Psalms 66:18**

GOD THOUGHTS:

One of the important characteristics of a winning team is team chemistry. Not only do they play well together but they enjoy being together. One of the upsides of these relationships is that you can ask things of each other and because of the relationship, you will do them. Without these relationships, these requests would not get done. In our teamwork with God, a right relationship is just as important. We can't ignore God and live in violation of His laws and then expect Him to answer our prayers. How we live daily is so important. Would God hear your prayers today if you asked?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



1 Kings 1:1-53 Acts 4:1-37
Psalms 124:1-8 Proverb 16:24

THEME: You're On The Team*June 7***VERSE:** God sets the solitary in families;
Psalms 68-6**GOD THOUGHTS:**

Trying out for a team can be difficult. You want so much to belong, but the decision is up to the coach. You can go and give all you've got and hope that it is good enough. That moment when you are told you are on the team is priceless. You belong. Now you have gone from an outsider to a member of the team. God has done that for us. And it wasn't based on our performance, athletic ability, or our looks. It is based on His great love. If you come to Him, He will adopt you into His family; no questions asked. How does it feel to be on God's team?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

1 Kings 2:1-3:2 Acts 5:1-42
Psalms 125:1-5 Proverb 16:25

THEME: Did You Hear That

June 8

VERSE: That Your way may be known on earth,
Psalms 67:2

GOD THOUGHTS:

Sometimes when the coach speaks, we want to make sure everyone heard what He said because we think it was important. Often we will use the phrase, "Did you hear that?" We don't want other people to miss this important information. As important as that might be, there is another person to whom when He speaks, we all should listen. His name is God. Truly what He has to say is more important than what any of us will ever say. We all should desire to make sure that everyone is hearing what God says. We should turn to the person next to us and say, "Did you hear that?"

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



1 Kings 3:3-4:34 Acts 6:1-15
Psalms 126:1-6 Proverbs 16:26-27

THEME: Good Representative

June 9

VERSE: Let not those who wait for You, O Lord
God of hosts; be ashamed because of me;
Psalm 69:6

GOD THOUGHTS:

As a member of a team, you are expected at all times to remember to behave in such a way as to bring honor and respect to the team. When someone's actions reflect poorly on the team, it is a moment of shame. Sometimes it leads to discipline. You are expected to behave a certain way. As a believer in Jesus, things are exactly the same. As members of God's family, our lives are to constantly reflect His goodness to us. When we make poor choices it brings shame to us, our fellow believers, and to the reputation of Jesus. Is there anything in your life that if known would bring shame to Him?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



1 Kings 5:1-6:38 Acts 7:1-29
Psalms 127:1-5 Proverbs 16:28-30

THEME: Finally!*June 10*

VERSE: Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; **Psalms 70:4**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Athletes have been known to spend hours in practice trying to perfect a particular move or skill. They are driven by the desire to accomplish this goal. Then that moment comes, when after much frustration, that action comes together and the skill is perfected. They stand in triumph feeling like they finally have accomplished this. As a believer, we should be just as motivated in our pursuit of our relationship with God. We should be willing to spend the time to accomplish this goal. When we do this, there will come that moment when we can say, "Finally!" We will be walking in the joy of the Lord? Are you seeking after Him?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

1 Kings 7:1-51 Acts 7:30-50
Psalms 128:1-6 Proverbs 16:31-33

THEME: Won't Happen

June 11

VERSE: Do not cast me off in the time of old age;
Do not forsake me when my strength fails.

Psalms 71:9

GOD THOUGHTS:

In the back of an athlete's mind is the knowledge that he won't be able to play his sport forever. There will come that dreaded moment when, because of age or accumulation of injuries, they won't be able to perform at the level to keep playing on their team. They may think that it won't happen to them, but it will. As a believer in Christ, there will never come a time when He will say you are too old to serve Him. He will never cast us aside and say I have no need of you. It won't happen. He may move us around but He will never get rid of us. Have you put your trust in Him?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



1 Kings 8:1-66 Acts 7:51-8:13
Psalms 129:1-8 Proverb 17:1

THEME: Cheerleading

June 12

VERSE: Let my mouth be filled with Your praise
And with Your glory all day. **Psalms 71:8**

GOD THOUGHTS:

As an athlete, it is enjoyable to hear people cheering for you. It is interesting to hear before the game the cheers that state the sure victory for their team. Sometimes these are quickly silenced by the other team. Other times, they seem to go on continually as your team moves towards victory. This is a shadow of the praise that belongs to Jesus. He will never be defeated. We can sing songs of victory because of His great power. Singing of His greatness and glory brings joy to our lives. Is your mouth filled with the praises of God?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



1 Kings 9:1-10:29 Acts 8:14-40
Psalms 130:1-8 Proverbs 17:2-3

THEME: Envy*June 15*

VERSE: For I was envious of the boastful, When I saw the prosperity of the wicked. **Psalms 73:3**

GOD THOUGHTS:

One mistake common with athletes is envy. When we watch a great athlete perform, we want to be like them. We try to copy their moves and hope that others will call us great one day. This is a one way trip to disappointment. We don't possess all have that players unique abilities or experience. An athlete should focus on developing his own unique skills and abilities. Christians have this same problem too. We shouldn't want to be someone else. We should want to be the unique person that God made us to be. Be the best you, you can be. Are you focused on being who God made you to be?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

1 Kings 11:1-12:19 Acts 9:1-25
Psalms 131:1-3 Proverbs 17:4-5

THEME: Final Whistle

June 14

VERSE: When I choose the proper time, I will judge uprightly. **Psalms 75:2**

GOD THOUGHTS:

For an athlete, when you know it's coming to the end of the game, you want to push to give your last bit of energy in order to win. The drama is increased when you don't know when the final whistle will blow. Games are often won and lost in these final moments. Some cheer and others are sad when the whistle sounds. The same is true in our lives. Someday, no one knows just when our whistle will blow and our life will be over. Nothing can be done after the whistle to change the result. We all know it's coming. Will you be happy or sad when the final whistle sounds?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



1 Kings 12:20-13:34 Acts 9:26-43
Psalms 132:1-18 Proverbs 17:6

THEME: Remember*June 15*

VERSE: I will remember the works of the Lord;
Surely I will remember Your wonders of old.

Psalms 77:11

GOD THOUGHTS:

Even good athletes have an off day. They don't wish to be remembered for that one day. In fact, they would rather you forget about that day and remember all the plays they have made in the past. It would be foolish to judge an athlete on just one performance. Sometimes we judge God when He doesn't do as we wish. We should think back to the many times that God has taken care of us in the past. Sometimes we are judging God when He is not through working. Knowing what God has done in the past, we should trust Him in the present. Are you reminding yourself of the faithfulness of God?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

1 Kings 14:1-15:24 Acts 10:1-23
Psalms 133:1-3 Proverbs 17:7-8

THEME: Keep Your Word

June 16

VERSE: Make vows to the Lord your God, and pay them; **Psalms 76:11**

GOD THOUGHTS:

When an athlete makes a commitment to a coach, the coach expects him to keep his word. A player's future with a team can be determined by the keeping of his word. No one wants a teammate he can't count on to do what they promise to do. Unreliable players don't last long. As Christians, we should be careful about making promises to God. Only make promises you can keep. How foolish is it to make promises to one who knows everything if we don't intend to keep them. Making a promise and keeping it is a path to blessing. Do you keep your word?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



1 Kings 15:25-17:24 Acts 10:24-48
Psalms 134:1-3 Proverbs 17:9-11

THEME: Complaining

June 17

VERSE: Therefore the Lord heard this and was furious; **Psalms 78:21**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Few things upset coaches faster than players complaining. When a person complains they are focusing everything on themselves and not thinking about the other players or the fact that the job of the coach is to help them win. They must trust the coach to do what is best for the team. When it comes to our relationship with God the same is true. God is more interested in our character than our comfort. When we complain we are saying that God is not doing what is best for us. We need to trust Him. Are you complaining about something in your life?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



1 Kings 18:1-46 Acts 11:1-30
Psalms 135:1-21 Proverbs 17:12-13

THEME: Limits

June 18

VERSE: Yes, again and again they tempted God,
And limited the Holy One of Israel. **Psalms 78:41**

GOD THOUGHTS:

No athlete would want to say that they limited their team or made them less successful than they could have been. There is something about athletes that want to say they are winners. However if they choose to not follow the coaches instructions or the game plan they are given they can limit their team because they no longer are following the same game plan. Even as Christians when we choose to not follow God or work with other Christians we can limit both God's blessings to us and His work in other peoples lives. Are you limiting God?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



1 Kings 19:1-21 Acts 12:1-23
Psalms 136:1-26 Proverbs 17:14-15

THEME: Not Absent*June 19***VERSE:** Why should the nations say, Where is their God? **Psalms 79:10****GOD THOUGHTS:**

In big games, at critical moments it is important that players step to the forefront. Sometimes the pressure of the moment or the fear of failure keeps them from stepping up. When this happens their team suffers from them not filling the role their team needs. They are absent even when they are there. As Christians we all will face challenging moments and will have to decide what to do. For some the pressure of the moment or the fear of failure causes us to shrink back instead of step up. We should take courage from the fact that our God will always show up and take charge of the situation. Are you trusting in God when the going gets tough?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

1 Kings 20:1-21:29 Acts 12:24-13:15
Psalms 137:1-9 Proverb 17:16

THEME: Leadership Part 1

June 20

VERSE: So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, **Psalms 78:72a**

GOD THOUGHTS:

To be a coach you should have certain attributes. One of these is integrity. To have integrity you cannot have divided loyalties or competing agendas. A lack of integrity will destroy your credibility as a leader. You must live what you talk. To be a Christian leader this is also a must. You must live out what you talk about. This gives you credibility when you speak. People will respect and follow your integrity. To influence people your life should reflect exactly what you say. Then people will follow you. Do you practice what you preach?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



1 Kings 22:1-53 Acts 13:16-41
Psalms 138:1-8 Proverbs 17:17-18

THEME: Leadership Part 2

June 21

VERSE: And guided them by the skillfulness of his hands. **Psalms 78:72**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Another prerequisite to being a coach is to know your sport. A huge part of coaching is teaching players how to play well. This requires time and effort in learning about your sport. You can't teach what you don't know. A lack of knowledge will make any coach ineffective. As Christian leaders we should spend the time and effort getting to know God and the Bible. Then we are able to lead and teach others. Again you can't teach what you don't know. People will benefit as we share what we have learned about God. Are you growing in your knowledge of God?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



2 Kings 1:1-2:25 Acts 13:42-14:7
Psalms 139:1-24 Proverbs 17:19-21

THEME: Momentum

June 22

VERSE: cause your face to shine, And we shall be saved! **Psalms 80:3b**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Every team wants to have momentum on their side but there is no set way of achieving it. Momentum usually turns on a player doing what he has trained to do and getting the desired results. It doesn't happen by accident. It only rewards those who have put in the work and are ready for the moment. As a Christian we should be even more diligent in our preparation. There will come a moment when our preparation will make the difference. When we do what we have prepared to do and see the results in someone else's life this will encourage us to keep working. Do you have momentum in your life?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



2 Kings 3:1-4:17 Acts 14:8-28
Psalms 140:1-13 Proverb 17:22

THEME: Loyalty*June 23***VERSE:** There shall be no foreign god among you:
Psalms 81:9**GOD THOUGHTS:**

When a player joins a team he is expected to devote himself to the success of that team. To wear a jersey supporting another team would be considered disloyal. A player is expected to show his loyalty both by what he does and what he does not do. This is taken very seriously and disloyalty is not tolerated. As a follower of Jesus we should be devoted to the success of the mission of Jesus. We should show our loyalty both by what we do and what we don't do. This is far more serious than sports. Are you loyal to Jesus?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

2 Kings 4:18-5:27 Acts 15:1-35
Psalms 141:1-10 Proverb 17:23

THEME: Comebacks*June 24***VERSE:** Restore us, O God; **Psalms 80:3****GOD THOUGHTS:**

There comes a point in an athlete's career when things are no longer moving forward. To not do something would guarantee a further downhill slide. Most often they find a new coach and renew their efforts at physical fitness. They work longer and harder to improve their skills. They know the truth that in order to improve they will have to change what they are doing. As Christians there will be times we need to make some changes to continue to grow like we need. As we use renewed effort and work on the basics of our faith we will grow. Are you ready to make a comeback?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

2 Kings 6:1-7:20 Acts 15:36-16:15
Psalms 142:1-7 Proverbs 17:24-25

THEME: Not Fooled*June 25*

VERSE: The haters of the Lord would pretend submission to Him. **Psalms 81:15**

GOD THOUGHTS:

As an athlete it is easy to see players that only are performing when people are looking. These players may have great talent but they never end up accomplishing much because coaches are not easily fooled. What should have been a great career becomes a disappointment. For Christians we can perform when people are around but how about when we think no one is looking. The reality is that God is always looking and He never misses anything. We should live our lives to please Him. Are you trying to fool God?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

2 Kings 8:1-9:13 Acts 16:16-40
Psalms 143:1-12 Proverb 17:26

THEME: Standards

June 26

VERSE: How long will you judge unjustly, And show partiality to the wicked? **Psalms 82:2**

GOD THOUGHTS:

There are some athletes who feel that they should get different, easier standards than others. They believe all rules should be slanted to their benefit. Unfortunately some are allowed privileges when they are younger because of their abilities, and this lack of standards eventually destroys their lives. Fortunately for believers in Christ the standards never change. They are consistent which helps us to know boundaries that help us to live productive lives. The same standards apply to all. Are you following God's standards?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



2 Kings 9:14-10:31 Acts 17:1-34
Psalms 144:1-15 Proverbs 17:27-28

THEME: Homecourt Advantage*June 27***VERSE:** My soul longs, yes, even faints For the courts of the Lord; **Psalms 84:2****GOD THOUGHTS:**

For athletes there is always an advantage to playing at home. The team's performance and winning percentages are much higher at home. Whether it is being on your field, having more fans, or some other factor no one is quite sure. Everyone is sure that if you are going to play an important game you want to do it at home. For Christians there is nothing like being in the presence of the Lord. We live better and are truly happier there than anywhere else in the world. Our joy in life is tied to spending time with the Lord. Are you enjoying the advantage of walking with the Lord?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

2 Kings 10:32-12:21 Acts 18:1-22
Psalms 145:1-21 Proverb 18:1

THEME: Opportunity Lost

June 28

VERSE: So I gave them over to their own stubborn heart, to walk in their own counsels. **Psalms 81:12**

GOD THOUGHTS:

As an athlete the relationship with your coach is important. It is a relationship built on trust. The moment the coach no longer has trust in a player listening and following instructions the playing time for that player will go down. His opportunity to pursue his sport is lost. God is in many ways like our coach. He wants to teach us and guide us so that we can experience joy and bring Him glory. There comes a time when we are not listening to God that He moves on and our opportunity to walk in His favor is gone. Are you in danger of losing your opportunity?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



2 Kings 13:1-14:29 Acts 18:23-19:12
Psalms 146:1-10 Proverbs 18:2-3

THEME: Waiting to Hear

June 29

VERSE: I will hear what God the Lord will speak,
Psalms 85:8

GOD THOUGHTS:

For an athlete there is no higher praise than the voice of his coach. Other people may praise you, but when your coach praises you it is even more special. In a sense a player waits to hear what the coach has to say before he really knows how to feel about his performance. A good coach will give praise where it is due. For a believer in Christ what the Lord has to say is more important than what other people have to say about our lives. We need to be listening so that we can be quick to obey and quick to celebrate his pleasure in our lives. Are you waiting to hear what God has to say?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



2 Kings 15:1-16:20 Acts 19:13-41
Psalms 147:1-20 Proverbs 18:4-5

THEME: Leading the Way

June 30

VERSE: Righteousness will go before Him, and shall make His footsteps our pathway. **Psalms 85:13**

GOD THOUGHTS:

New members on a team always look to the experienced players to show them the way things are done on that team. They learn how that team dresses, what skills they practice, and even special things they do to motivate each other. By following their example they begin to fit in much quicker to their team. As a follower of Jesus we look to how He lived His life. His example is there for us to follow. The more we follow Him the quicker our lives are changed to please Him. He is leading the way are you following?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



2 Kings 17:1-18:12 Acts 20:1-38
Psalms 148:1-14 Proverbs 18:6-7

THEME: Out of Trouble*July 1***VERSE:** Oh, turn to me, and have mercy on me!**Psalm 86:16****GOD THOUGHTS:**

When an athlete breaks a team rule or fails to follow the coaches direction then he is in trouble. The coach has the power to limit the playing time of the player. The power to restore the relationship rests with the coach. The ability to begin that process depends on the player. If he will come and admit his wrongs the coach can restore the player to his previous position. This is a perfect illustration of our relationship with God. We have all wronged Him and disobeyed His rules. If we will come to him and admit and wrongs and ask Him to, He will forgive us. Will you ask God for forgiveness?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

2 Kings 18:13-19:37 Acts 21:1-17
Psalm 149:1-9 Proverbs 18:8

THEME: Teach Me

VERSE: Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in your truth. **Psalms 86:11**

GOD THOUGHTS:

One of the keys of being a good athlete is being teachable. A player who shows up at practice on time, ready to play, and asks for extra instruction will improve rapidly. The one who listens learns, while the one who doesn't stays the same. For a believer in Christ this is true as well. If we present ourselves before the Lord to learn, He will teach us and our lives will change quickly. If we don't present ourselves to the Lord our lives will stay the same and we will miss out on the good things that God meant for us to have. Is your prayer to the Lord, "teach me"?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

2 Kings 20:1-22:2 Acts 21:18-36

Psalms 150:1-6 Proverbs 18:9-10

THEME: No Wasted Time

July 3

VERSE: So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom. **Psalms 90:12**

GOD THOUGHTS:

At some point every athlete realizes that he cannot play forever. Their career will end because their body will not enable them to perform at that level. Knowing that their playing years are limited a player should plan to make the most of them. There is no time for half-hearted efforts. They will be remembered for what they do, not what they could have done. As a follower of Jesus we are to remember the limitations of our lives. What counts is what we actually do, not what we could have done. Are you wasting your time?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



2 Kings 22:3-23:30 Acts 21:37-22:16
Psalm 1:1-6 Proverbs 18:11-12

THEME: Trustworthy

July 4

VERSE: I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust. **Psalms 91:2**

GOD THOUGHTS:

For an athlete one of the keys to success is being surrounded by people who are trustworthy. People who will do what they are supposed to do when they are supposed to do it form the foundation of any successful team. They rely on each other and trust each other in difficult situations. For a Christian we serve a God who is the ultimate trustworthy person. He will do what He says He will do. Knowing this we can have confidence in Him to face the tough situations. Are you trusting Him?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



2 Kings 23:31-25:30 Acts 22:17-23:10
Psalm 2:1-12 Proverbs 18:13

THEME: Your Choice

July 5

VERSE: Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place. **Psalms 91:9**

GOD THOUGHTS:

As an athlete you must decide who's voice you will listen to. There are many people who will want to tell you what to do and how to play. They all promise success but obviously that is not true. Choose carefully who's advice you listen to because it will determine the outcome of your own career. As a follower of Christ, we can not only know what He asks but also how things will ultimately turn out. His promises are sure. Have you chosen to follow Him?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



1 Chronicles 1:1-2:17 Acts 23:11-35
Psalm 3:1-8 Proverbs 18:14-15

THEME: On Your Side*July 6*

VERSE: He who abides in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. **Psalms 91:1**

GOD THOUGHTS:

When a player is in right relationship with his coach then his missed shots can be overlooked. Many times the coach will step up and protect him from criticism because he was following the direction of the coach. The benefits of a right relationship include protection. As a follower of Jesus this is true as well. When we choose to live in a right relationship with Him, we live under His protection. The benefits of this relationship are many. Are you living in a right relationship with God?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

1 Chronicles 2:18-4:4 Acts 24:1-27
Psalms 4:1-8 Proverbs 18:16-18

THEME: Request Granted*July 7***VERSE:** He shall call upon Me, and I will answer Him. **Psalms 91:15****GOD THOUGHTS:**

For an athlete to ask something of a coach usually requires a relationship. And not just a relationship but a relationship in good standing. The more diligent the player is in practice, the better he listens to instruction, the better his relationship with the coach. This leads to the ability to make requests and have them granted. A poor relationship leads to request denied. This mirrors our walk with God. He delights in answering the requests of those who have a close relationship with Him. Would your relationship with God lead to a "request granted."

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

1 Chronicles 4:5-5:17 Acts 25:1-27
Psalm 5:1-12 Proverbs 18:19

THEME: Thankfulness*July 8***VERSE:** It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
Psalms 92:1**GOD THOUGHTS:**

Many athletes over time can forget to be thankful for the athletic abilities they were born with. As this happens they cease taking care of themselves and no longer value what they have been given. Their performance begins to suffer as they presume upon their abilities. This is a powerful lesson to learn. As we are thankful to God for what He has given us, we begin to value it and seek to make the most of it. Our lives become reflections of gladness as we use the gifts and abilities we have been blessed with. Does your life reflect a thankful heart?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

1 Chronicles 5:18-6:81 Acts 26:1-32
Psalm 6:1-10 Proverbs 18:20-21

THEME: Let it Go*July 9***VERSE:** O Lord God, to whom vengeance belongs- **Psalms 94:1****GOD THOUGHTS:**

One of the most destructive emotions for an athlete is the desire for vengeance. That desire to get back at the other player, to even the score, usually costs his own team both in performance and in penalties. The best way to handle these situations is to let it go. To hold on to things hurts you and your team. For believers this should be easier because we have someone who has said He will make all things right. Not only has He said it, but He has the power to make it right. Is there something, you need to let go?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

1 Chronicles 7:1-8:40 Acts 27:1-20
Psalm 7:1-17 Proverbs 18:22

THEME: Unchangeable

July 10

VERSE: Surely the world is established, so that it cannot be moved. **Psalms 93:1**

GOD THOUGHTS:

For an athlete adversity is certain. There will be days and games where things just don't go well. It's easy to work hard and have a good attitude when things are going well. It is when things aren't going well that players attitudes and effort can diminish. This is when character is revealed. Fortunately we serve a God who is unchangeable. He doesn't have a bad day. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. We can trust in Him and pattern our lives after Him. What does your life look like when the pressure is on?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



1 Chronicles 9:1-10:14 Acts 27:21-44
Psalm 8:1-9 Proverbs 18:23-24

THEME: Good Listener*July 11***VERSE:** Blessed is the man, whom You instruct, O Lord. **Psalms 94:12****GOD THOUGHTS:**

One of the simplest things a player can do to increase his playing time is to listen to his coach and follow his instructions. It only requires effort to pay attention to what you are being told and then go out and do it. Not listening will eventually put even the most talented player on the sidelines. As a follower of Christ there are blessings for hearing and obeying the voice of the Lord. A good listener pays attention and then follows through on the instructions given. Are you a good listener when God speaks?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

1 Chronicles 11:1-12:18 Acts 28:1-31
Psalm 9:1-12 Proverbs 19:1-3

THEME: At Peace*July 12*

VERSE: In the multitude of my anxieties within me, Your comforts delight my soul. **Psalms 94:19**

GOD THOUGHTS:

One of the things that all athletes face is anxiety. Right before a big game and sometimes within a game when everything is on the line. Anxiety not properly handled can distract a player and lead to poor performance. The best players are the ones who can manage their anxieties. For a Christian we can trade our anxiety for His comfort. What a deal! We can truly put all of our trust in Him and know that no matter the outcome of the situation we will be loved. How great is that? Are you struggling with anxiety?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

1 Chronicles 12:19-14:17 Romans 1:1-17
Psalms 9:13-20 Proverbs 19:4-5

THEME: Not Hardened

July 13

VERSE: Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion. **Psalms 95:8**

GOD THOUGHTS:

An athlete lives in an emotionally charged environment. Competition keeps one on edge. A trap that some fall into is that when things don't work out or someone lets them down, is to harden your heart and not listen to what others are telling you. This can have disastrous consequences both for an athlete and anyone else. Hurts are part of life but if we harden our hearts then we can't give and receive love like we should. This can hurt both us and people we love. God is asking you today, "Is your heart hardened?"

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



1 Chronicles 15:1-16:36 Romans 1:18-32
Psalm 10:1-15 Proverbs 19:6-7

THEME: Are You Listening

July 14

VERSE: Today if you will hear His voice:

Psalms 95:8

GOD THOUGHTS:

For an athlete it is important to listen. The voice of your coach has directions and plans for the success of your team. Your part in the plan is to listen and follow the instructions. The better you listen and obey the better your team does and the more other people think you are a good player. Fail to listen and bad things will happen. It's the same way with God. When we listen and follow His instruction God things happen for us and for others. When we don't bad things happen. Are you listening?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



1 Chronicles 16:37-18:17 Romans 2:1-24
Psalm 10:16-18 Proverbs 19:8-9

THEME: No Happy Ending

VERSE: So I swore in my wrath, They shall not enter My rest. **Psalms 95:11**

GOD THOUGHTS:

For an athlete being in trouble with the coach doesn't end well. He can limit or eliminate your playing time. He can force you into doing extra practice. Even if the team is doing well, it will not go well for that player. God is like a coach in this respect. If you fail to listen to His words, life will not go well for you. He can bring hard things into your life to teach you the foolishness of your thinking. Without God there will not be a happy ending. Do you know God?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

1 Chronicles 19:1-21:30 Romans 2:25-3:8
Psalms 11:1-7 Proverbs 19:10-12

THEME: What's the Standard?*July 16*

VERSE: He shall judge the world with righteousness, And the peoples with His truth.

Psalms 96:13

GOD THOUGHTS:

For an athlete knowing the rulebook is one key to good performance. Some of the biggest mistakes are made when players don't know the rules. Knowing the rules helps guide how a player plays and helps him to be more successful. As important as the rulebook is to the player the Bible is to the Christian. When a Christian doesn't live by the Bible then he opens himself to many mistakes and problems. One key to success in the Christian life is knowing the Bible. Are you spending time with the Bible?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

1 Chronicles 22:1-23:32 Romans 3:9-31
Psalm 12:1-8 Proverbs 19:13-14

THEME: Joy

VERSE: Light is sown for the righteous, And gladness for the upright in heart. **Psalm 97:11**

GOD THOUGHTS:

When a team is in harmony there is a joy that they share. It shows in how they spend their time, how they play, and even how they handle adversity. When the team becomes more important than the individual players this joy becomes their trademark. God has designed that when His children walk in unity with Him and with each other their lives are marked by joy. When Christians put the cause of Christ above their own pursuits joy is the result. Do you have this joy?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

1 Chronicles 24:1-26:11 Romans 4:1-12
Psalm 13:1-6 Proverbs 19:15-16

THEME: Loyalty*July 18***VERSE:** You who love the Lord, hate evil!**Psalm 97:10****GOD THOUGHTS:**

One of the key elements for a player is loyalty. A player is expected to be loyal to his team. You don't come out to the game wearing the other team's uniform. A player is expected to give his time, energy, and effort to his team. God expects no less than that from us. He expects that when we say we are Christians we will strive to live like that. Nothing is more frustrating to God than for a person to say they love him and not live according to His standards. Does your life reflect loyalty to Jesus Christ?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

1 Chronicles 26:12-27:34 Romans 4:13-5:5
Psalm 14:1-7 Proverbs 19:17

THEME: Perspective*July 19*

VERSE: Know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who made us, and not we ourselves. **Psalm 100:3**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Any athlete who thinks he has done it all by himself is mistaken. It takes years of coaching, trainers, sometimes doctors, and other players on the team, to achieve success. Players need to stand together and any success they have is shared. For a Christian it is impossible to be have any success without God. We must rely on each other and our relationship with God for our lives to truly have meaning. God made us and He wants to help us reach our full potential. Are you trusting in God?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

1 Chronicles 28:1-29:30 Romans 5:6-21
Psalm 15:1-5 Proverbs 19:18-19

THEME: Wise Behavior*July 20***VERSE:** I will behave wisely in a perfect way.**Psalms 101:2****GOD THOUGHTS:**

One decision an athlete will never regret is to live wisely. Many athletes choose to live according to their emotions. Eventually that leads to problems. For an athlete wise choices include taking care of yourself physically and listening to your coach. For a Christian wise living means living according to the Bible. This means saying no to your flesh and listening to the Lord. To live according to your emotions (flesh) only leads to problems. Are you living wisely?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

2 Chronicles 1:1-3:17 Romans 6:1-23
Psalm 16:1-11 Proverbs 19:20-21

THEME: Not Pulled Away*July 21***VERSE:** I hate the work of those who fall away;
Psalm 101:3**GOD THOUGHTS:**

When an athlete is at odds with the coach or develops a bad attitude he tends to pull away from the team and it's leadership. Another thing they do is invite other people to join them in their lack of commitment to the team. If you don't make a clear stand they will think that you agree with them. As Christians we should be careful that when people we know pull away from the Lord that we don't allow them to take us with them. Have you taken a clear stand in your walk with God?

MY THOUGHTS:**READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

2 Chronicles 4:1-6:11 Romans 7:1-13
Psalm 17:1-15 Proverbs 19:22-23

THEME: Disctractions

July 22

VERSE: I will set nothing wicked before my eyes;
Psalms 101:3

GOD THOUGHTS:

An athlete who is focused on performing well will seek to avoid distractions. A distraction is anything that will try to take the players attention and time and cause them to perform poorly. A key to top performance for an athlete is to avoid distractions. As a Christian the world has many distractions that can keep us from living for Christ. The key is to be aware of these temptations and avoid them. Failure to avoid distractions can lead to a messed up life. What distractions do you need to avoid?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



2 Chronicles 6:12-8:10 Romans 7:14-8:8
Psalm 18:1-15 Proverbs 19:24-25

THEME: Focus

VERSE: A perverse heart shall depart from me; I will not know wickedness. **Psalms 101:4**

GOD THOUGHTS:

As an athlete we need to remember we are responsible for our focus or lack thereof. We are responsible for being attentive in practice, focused in our games, and to carry out the game plan. When we lose focus our performance and our team suffer. We must put things out of our lives that cause us to lose focus. For a Christian this is a perfect picture of how we are to avoid the distractions of the world that cause us to lose focus. This lack of focus hurts us and the cause of Christ. Are you determined to keep your focus?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

2 Chronicles 8:11-10:19 Romans 8:9-25
Psalms 18:16-36 Proverbs 19:26

THEME: Choose Wisely

July 24

VERSE: My eyes shall be on the faithful of the land. That they may dwell with me; **Psalms 101:6**

GOD THOUGHTS:

As an athlete you should pick your close friends carefully. These close friends can either make you more successful or contribute to your downfall. Take some time and observe before you make someone a close friend. For a believer in Christ this is very good advice as well. Our close friends can either help us to walk with Christ or help to draw us away. We should take our time and observe so that we can choose wisely. Our friends can exert a big influence on our lives. Have you chosen your friends wisely?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



2 Chronicles 11:1-13:22 Romans 8:26-39
Psalm 18:37-50 Proverbs 19:27-29

THEME: Consistency**VERSE:** But you are the same, **Psalm 102:27****GOD THOUGHTS:**

Every athlete strives to perform consistently. They want to play well all the time. One of keys to this is practicing the same way. Another key is feeding your body the same way on a daily basis. In order to perform well consistently self-discipline is a must. Christians know that our God is consistent. To live consistently like He asks us, we must have a steady diet of God's Word and also strive to live out what they are learning. This type of life is a daily choice. Does your life reflect consistency?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

2 Chronicles 14:1-16:14 Romans 9:1-24
Psalm 19:1-14 Proverbs 20:1

THEME: Reputation

July 26

VERSE: So the nations shall fear the name of the Lord, **Psalms 102:15**

GOD THOUGHTS:

As an athlete one thing that arrives every game before you is your reputation. If you play well it affects how the other team schemes to win. If you have not been playing well then the other team may think they can take advantage of you to win. Reputations are earned not given. For a follower of Christ we should realize who's team we are on. He is the ultimate winner. The enemy seeks to hurt us by making us doubt Him. We can trust Him and not fear Him. Are you excited to be on the Lord's side?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



2 Chronicles 17:1-18:34 Romans 9:25-10:13
Psalm 20:1-9 Proverbs 20:2-3

THEME: Don't Forget the Rewards*July 27*

VERSE: Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits. **Psalms 103:2**

GOD THOUGHTS:

An athlete should never forget there are rewards. Hard work gets their body in shape. Repeating drills can improve skills. Listening to the coach helps them to follow the game plan. And the combination of these things can lead to victories. Likewise, a Christian should remember that studying the Bible teaches us how to live, prayer helps us to connect with and hear God. Obeying God is the key to fulfilling His will and having a fulfilled life. Are you living to earn rewards?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

2 Chronicles 19:1-20:37 Romans 10:14-11:12
Psalm 21:1-13 Proverbs 20:4-6

THEME: Blossom

July 28

VERSE: As a flower of the field, so he flourishes.

Psalms 103:15

GOD THOUGHTS:

Like an athlete a flower has a short career. It does not last forever. Knowing that their career is short an athlete should focus on shining the brightest. It takes effort to shine brightly. Flowers are remembered for their beauty, athletes are remembered for their efforts. Christians likewise must realize that our lives can blossom like a flower. It takes the right food (the Word of God) and following the Son for the power. We will be remembered for how we shine. Is your life shining for the Lord?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



2 Chronicles 21:1-23:21 Romans 11:13-36
Psalm 22:1-18 Proverbs 20:7

THEME: Dependable

July 29

VERSE: These all wait for You, That You may give them their food in due season. **Psalms 104:27**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Athletes know that during a game that have to depend on each other to achieve success. One characteristic that is valued highly is being dependable. Being where you are supposed to be, doing what you should be doing increases your value to the team. For a Christian we have no one more dependable than God. He is always there. What He says, He does. You can count on Him. What freedom that gives us in life. Are you depending on Him?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



2 Chronicles 24:1-25:28 Romans 12:1-21
Psalm 22:19-31 Proverbs 20:8-10

THEME: Unchangeable

July 30

VERSE: You who laid the foundations of the earth,
So that it should not be moved forever. **Psalms 104:5**

GOD THOUGHTS:

As an athlete it is enjoyable to hear people cheering for you. It is interesting to hear before the game the cheers that state the sure victory for their team. Sometimes these are quickly silenced by the other team. Other times they seem to go on continually as your team moves towards victory. This is a shadow of the praise that belongs to Jesus. He will never be defeated. We can sing songs of victory because of His great power. Singing of His greatness and glory brings joy to our lives. Is your mouth filled with the praises of God?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



2 Chronicles 26:1-28:27 Romans 13:1-14
Psalm 23:1-6 Proverbs 20:11

THEME: Your Word*July 31***VERSE:** He remembers His covenant forever.**Psalm 105:8****GOD THOUGHTS:**

Athletes value trust. They expect you to do what you say you will do. Your words gain or lose value by how your life matches up to them. When your actions don't match your words then trust decreases. As a follower of Christ our words and actions should be the same. God has set the example because He never forgets to keep His word. Our testimony of God is made more powerful when we keep our word. Do your actions match your words?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

2 Chronicles 29:1-36 Romans 14:1-23
Psalm 24:1-10 Proverbs 20:12

THEME: Blessed*Aug 1*

VERSE: Blessed are those who keep justice, And he who does righteousness at all times! **Psalms 106:3**

GOD THOUGHTS:

One common temptation for athletes is to live to please their flesh. They believe because they work so hard they should enjoy themselves. This can lead to poor performance and an early end to careers. They are trading short term pleasure for long term loss. For a believer we are taught to live for long term gain. Doing right always brings a reward both now and in the future. This consistency even blesses those around us. God promises reward for those who do right. Can God bless how you are living your life?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

2 Chronicles 30:1-31:21 Romans 15:1-22
Psalm 25:1-15 Proverbs 20:13-15

THEME: Corrupted*Aug 2***VERSE:** But they mingled with the Gentiles And learned their works. **Psalms 106:35****GOD THOUGHTS:**

Athlete's should be aware. The first step down the road to destruction is usually guided by one we would have called friend. Be very careful who you let get close to you. Those who get closest to us have the greatest influence in our lives. Ask yourself is this person's life taking them somewhere you want to go. Christians have long known the danger of allowing lost people to influence our lives. There are many examples in the Bible of this. Don't allow someone else's sin to be your own. Are you being corrupted by your friends?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

2 Chronicles 32:1-33:13 Romans 15:23-16:9
Psalms 25:16-22 Proverbs 20:16-18

THEME: Complaining

VERSE: But complained in their tents, And did not heed the voice of the Lord. **Psalm 106:25**

GOD THOUGHTS:

One thing that will bring a team down is complaining. When someone complains their focus is on the negative and eventually it leads to why should we do what we are being asked to do. This leads to poor performance. No team wants a complainer on it. God also does not like complainers. When people complain about God they then stop obeying Him. We need to trust God in tough times, take our requests to Him in prayer. Trust Him, and not blame Him. Is there something in your life you are complaining about?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

2 Chronicles 33:14-34:33 Romans 16:10-27
Psalm 26:1-12 Proverbs 20:19

THEME: Hero*Aug 4*

VERSE: Phineas stood up and intervened, And the plague was stopped. **Psalms 106:30**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Every athlete dreams of being the hero. The one who rises up when it seems all hope is lost and turns the tide. Heroes are ordinary people who prepare hard daily and then are able and prepared to take advantage of the opportunity when it arises. They are not somebody who just walked in off the street. For a believer to be looked upon as a hero he must be prepared and take advantage of opportunities as they come. Opportunities are risky but they are worth it. Are you preparing to stand up for Christ?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

2 Chronicles 35:1-36:23 1 Corinthians 1:1-17
Psalm 27:1-6 Proverbs 20:20-21

THEME: Thankfulness*Aug 5***VERSE:** Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! **Psalms 107:1****GOD THOUGHTS:**

Attitudes can lift an athlete up or bring him down. One of these is thankfulness. When an athlete thinks that people owe him something he ceases to be thankful for what he has. This lack of thankfulness leads to breakdown in relationships with other teammates hurting the team. A follower of Christ should be thankful all the time. Everything we have came from him. We don't get what we deserve, we get better. God is so good to us. Are you thankful?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Ezra 1:1-2:70 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5
Psalm 27:7-14 Proverbs 20:22-23

THEME: He Picked You*Aug 6*

VERSE: Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy, And gathered out of the lands,
Psalm 107:2-3

GOD THOUGHTS:

An athlete experiences joy when he knows that he is wanted on his team. This gives him confidence to perform better and frees him from the fear of failure. When you know you are wanted you are willing to sacrifice more for the success of your team. For a Christian this concept of being chosen in spite of who we are and what we have done should bring great joy. This should give us the desire to perform better and sacrifice more. You have been chosen by the God of the universe. How does it feel to be chosen?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Ezra 3:1-4:23 1 Corinthians 2:6-3:4
Psalm 28:1-9 Proverbs 20:24-25

THEME: Speak Out!*Aug 7***VERSE:** Let the redeemed of the Lord say so.**Psalm 107:2****GOD THOUGHTS:**

An athlete is expected to speak out for his team every chance he gets. He is expected to say good things in public even when he is not sure all is well. This is part of the code that athlete's live by. When an athlete doesn't speak out or speaks negatively someone will quickly remind him that that is not acceptable. For a Christian we should speak up for the cause of Christ every chance we get. We have been given so much we should never be silent. Are you speaking out for God?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Ezra 4:24-6:22 1 Corinthians 3:5-23
Psalm 29:1-11 Proverbs 20:26-27

THEME: Help in Troubled Times

Aug 8

VERSE: Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, And He delivered them out of their distresses. **Psalms 107:6**

GOD THOUGHTS:

For an athlete being on a team provides comfort. Knowing that your coach supports you gives you courage. Knowing that in those dark, troubled times you are not alone is a gift. You know that help is on the way many times before you asked. God is all of this for Christians and even more. He sees troubles ahead and sometimes stops them completely. Other times he lets us ask and then sends the help we need. He is always there. He will help you. Do you need help?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Ezra 7:1-8:20 1 Corinthians 4:1-21
Psalms 30:1-12 Proverbs 20:28-30

THEME: To Be Wise

Aug 9

VERSE: Whoever is wise will observe these things,
And they will understand the lovingkindness of the
Lord. **Psalms 107:43**

GOD THOUGHTS:

To be a good athlete you should behave wisely. Eat right, rest well, exercise, and practice skills. Doing these things can help make you a better athlete. You can learn them from watching others and be wise yourself. To be wise as a Christian we should look at what God is doing and then join Him in His work. When you see His blessings it makes your heart full of joy. If you want to be wise you should pay attention to what the Lord is doing. Do you want to be wise?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Ezra 8:21-9:15 1 Corinthians 5:1-13
Psalms 31:1-8 Proverbs 21:1-2

THEME: What's Important

Aug 10

VERSE: I will sing and give praise, even with my glory. **Psalm 108:1**

GOD THOUGHTS:

An athlete will let you know what's important to them by what they talk about the most. They might talk about their team, the game, their city, their friends. All you have to do is be around them enough and you will know. This is also true outside of sports. If I say I am a Christian and that God is more important to me than anything else you can tell how true it is by what I talk about. What I talk about the most is what is on my mind. So what would your friends say is important to you?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Ezra 10:1-44 1 Corinthians 6:1-20
Psalm 31:9-18 Proverbs 21:3

THEME: Steady

VERSE: O God, my heart is steadfast;
Psalm 108:1

GOD THOUGHTS:

A characteristic of a successful athlete is being steadfast in your focus. You have a goal and you are constantly working towards it. This leads to improvement. If you have one goal today and a different tomorrow you will not be able to achieve much because you will be working towards too many things. For a Christian when our heart and mind are set on Him it allows us to work towards knowing Him. We will grow spiritually and be able to bless others. Is your focus steadily on Him?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Nehemiah 1:1-3:14 1 Corinthians 7:1-24
 Psalm 31:19-24 Proverbs 21:4

THEME: What He Said*Aug 12*

VERSE: As he loved cursing, so let it come to him;
Psalm 109:17

GOD THOUGHTS:

Some athletes are quick to praise others. Other athletes wish bad things upon their competitors. They rejoice when bad things happen to their competition. They are even glad when injuries happen to other players. This is just poor character. Those who follow Christ should be quick to praise others. They also understand that God has the power to return their curses upon them. God rewards those who wish well not wish harm on others. What do you say about others?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Nehemiah 3:15-5:13 1 Corinthians 7:25-40
Psalm 32:1-11 Proverbs 21:5-7

THEME: Reputation

Aug 13

VERSE: But You, O God the Lord, Deal with me for Your name's sake; **Psalm 109:21**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Athletes are known by their reputation both by their in game actions and lifestyle actions. It's really rather simple do well and have a good reputation or do poorly and have a bad reputation. You make your reputation by your daily decisions. God is concerned about His reputation, so He always does what He says He will do. He always does good. As a follower of Christ we should be as concerned about our reputations as God is. What does your reputation say about you?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Nehemiah 5:14-7:73a 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Psalm 33:1-11 Proverbs 21:8-10

THEME: Worth Studying*Aug 14*

VERSE: The works of the Lord are great, Studied by all who have pleasure in them. **Psalms 111:2**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Athletes can learn from other athletes. The biggest decision is who do you want to learn from. The wise answer is you want to learn from someone you want to be like. You learn from someone by spending time with them. A follower of God wants to learn from God. And he knows that to be more like God he must spend time with Him. This decision is made on a daily basis. You won't become more like Him without spending time with Him. Does your life reflect that you have been studying God?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Nehemiah 7:73-9:21 1 Corinthians 9:1-18
Psalms 33:12-22 Proverbs 21:11-12

THEME: Turnabout**VERSE:** Let them curse, but You bless;**Psalms 109:28****GOD THOUGHTS:**

Athletes have their character tested in public more than most others. When their opponent does something wrong or says something that upsets them they have a choice. You can respond like the offender and become like him or choose to ignore or respond with kindness and rise above him. God has set a wonderful example when people speak curses, He responds with blessing. To become like Christ we should not respond to evil with evil, but with kindness. How do you respond to bad treatment by others?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Nehemiah 9:22-10:39 1 Corinthians 9:19-10:13
Psalms 34:1-10 Proverb 21:13

THEME: Not Forgotten*Aug 16***VERSE:** He has made His wonderful works to be remembered; **Psalms 111:4****GOD THOUGHTS:**

Athletes dream of winning championships because those teams are remembered. They seek to win awards because those players are remembered. Those who don't win are soon forgotten. No one plans on being forgotten. God has done truly wonderful works that will be remembered. If we will walk closely with Him, He will do things through our lives that will become treasured memories. I don't want to live a forgettable life. Will your life be remembered or forgotten?

MY THOUGHTS:**READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Nehemiah 11:1-12:26 1 Corinthians 10: 14-33
Psalm 34:11-22 Proverbs 21:14-16

THEME: Truth

Aug 17

VERSE: The works of His hands are verity and justice; **Psalms 111:7**

GOD THOUGHTS:

One thing most athletes dread is that after the game the coach will look at each player's contribution to the team. His work will be judged on following the game plan and doing the things he should be doing. It's either good or bad. No middle ground. For a believer our lives will be looked at like this one day. Did we contribute to God's plan and do the things we should be doing. There is no middle ground. Our works should be truth and justice because this is how God's works are. Do your works reflect God?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Nehemiah 12:27-13:31 1 Corinthians 11:1-16
Psalm 35:1-16 Prov. 21:17-18

THEME: Understanding

Aug 18

VERSE: A good understanding have all those who do His commandments. **Psalms 111:10**

GOD THOUGHTS:

For an athlete to achieve his full potential, he needs to understand how his sport functions. There are many details that affect outcomes. He also needs to understand the importance of his relationship with his coach and with the other players. Without this understanding the player will end up frustrated. For a Christian this is a great picture. You need to understand how life operates. It is important to have a good relationship with God and with other believers. Are you becoming successful or frustrated?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Esther 1:1-3:15 1 Corinthians 11:17-34
Psalms 35:17-28 Proverbs 21:19-20

THEME: Wisdom*Aug 19***VERSE:** The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; **Psalms 111:10****GOD THOUGHTS:**

A characteristic that leads to success for athletes is wisdom. It can't be taught, because it really revolves around a character decision. Wisdom involves recognizing the truth that someone else has and then being willing to give up our own plans and base our decisions on it. As long as we seek to do our own thing we can't be wise. A true follower of Christ knows that acknowledging who God is is the first step towards wisdom. Will we lay down our plans and show wisdom by following His?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Esther 4:1-7:10 Corinthians 12:1-26
Psalms 36:1-12 Proverbs 21:21-22

THEME: Respect for Authority*Aug 20***VERSE:** Blessed is the man who fears the Lord,
Psalms 112:1**GOD THOUGHTS:**

A forgotten tool that is a key to being a successful athlete is respecting authority. Not respecting the referees will only lead to continued problems in the game. Not respecting the coach will affect the athlete's playing time as well as can cause problems with other players. Respecting authority comes with the benefits of that authority. Following God brings the blessings that only God can give. Not following Him brings problems. Are you walking in the blessings of respecting His authority?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Esther 8:1-10:3 1 Corinthians 12:27-13:13 Psalm 37:1-11 Proverbs 21:23-24

THEME: Not Afraid*Aug 21***VERSE:** His heart is established; He will not be afraid. **Psalms 112:8****GOD THOUGHTS:**

For every athlete there comes the moment of testing when things do not go right. At this moment fear wants to move into your life. It will say that they won't want you on this team anymore. That your life is over. When this happens what you trust in will either give you the strength to endure or let you down. As a follower of God there are no letdowns. He will not abandon us in our moment of trial. No matter what happens He will stay the same. Are you trusting in Him?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Job 1:1-3:26 1 Corinthians 14:1-17
Psalms 37:12-29 Proverbs 21:25-26

THEME: God is Watching

Aug 22

VERSE: Who humbles Himself to behold the things that are in the heavens and in the earth?

Psalms 113:6

GOD THOUGHTS:

Every athlete knows that during a game he is being watched. The referee is watching to make sure he follows the rules. The coach is watching to make sure he follows the game plan. The fans are watching because they want to see their team win. Nothing he does will go unnoticed. For a follower of Christ this is a great reminder. All of our actions are seen by God. He humbles Himself and takes time to be involved in our lives. He is looking for opportunities to reward us for doing well. Would God reward you for how you are living today?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Job 4:1-7:21 1 Corinthians 14:18-40
Psalm 37:30-40 Proverbs 21:27

THEME: A Good Man

Aug 23

VERSE: A good man deals graciously and lends,
Psalms 112:5

GOD THOUGHTS:

An important achievement for an athlete is also to be known as a good man. This will be the legacy of his career. Some athletes are known as good athletes but not as good men. Athletes that are also known as good men are given more respect. God's plan is for all of his followers to be known as good people. His pattern for that is dealing with other people with grace and helping those who have needs. We would all like to be treated this way as well. Based on your life, would you be called a good man?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Job 8:1-11:20 1 Corinthians 15:1-28
Psalm 38:1-22 Proverbs 21:28-29

THEME: Credit*Aug 24*

VERSE: Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, But to your name give glory, **Psalms 115:1**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Nothing will make an athlete more unpopular than to take credit for his team's success. Even star players need other players around them to make them successful. A wise athlete knows that it is a combination of athletes and coaching that makes any team successful. As a follower of Christ we should always make sure that God gets the glory. Every good thing we do was His idea. All we do is follow His leading. He alone deserves credit because He also gives us the ability. Are you giving credit to God?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Job 12:1-15:35 1 Corinthians 15:29-58
Psalm 39:1-13 Proverbs 21:30-31

THEME: Reputation

Aug 25

VERSE: Because of Your mercy, Because of Your truth. **Psalms 115:1**

GOD THOUGHTS:

One thing that follows an athlete is his reputation. Words like proud, arrogant, self-centered, selfish, and lazy are things that you hope to avoid. We would like to be known as humble, unselfish, thoughtful, and supportive of others. These things are tied to our actions. Our actions should reflect how we want to be known. God's reputation is based on his actions. As followers of Christ we should be conscious of the reputation that our actions are earning us. Does your reputation speak well of Jesus?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Job 16:1-19:29 1 Corinthians 16:1-24
Psalms 40:1-10 Proverbs 22:1

THEME: Asked For*Aug 26***VERSE:** You who fear the Lord, trust in the Lord;
Psalms 115:11**GOD THOUGHTS:**

For an athlete it is one thing to know who to turn to when you need help and it's another thing to do it. You can have the player on your bench who can turn the game around, but he has to be in the game to make a difference. You have to ask for his help or you won't get it. It works that way with God. Only God is truly capable of turning our lives around. But He is waiting for us to turn to Him and let Him do it. God has to be put in charge of your life to make a difference. Have you asked for His help?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Job 20:1-22:30 2 Corinthians 1:1-11
Psalm 40:11-17 Proverbs 22:2-4

THEME: Reliable*Aug 27*

VERSE: Why should the Gentiles say, "So where is their God?" **Psalms 115:2**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Every athlete dreams of being the "go to" guy. The player his team relies on when the game is on the line. Other teams will challenge you to step up and make the tough shot. The goal is to be reliable, to continuously make the play that makes the difference. No matter how reliable you are people will still challenge you to make the play. It is no different with God. Lost people continue to challenge Him. He has never disappointed. For Christians we should rely on his 100% consistency. Are you relying on God?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Job 23:1-27:23 2 Corinthians 1:12-2:11
Psalm 41:1-13 Proverbs 22:5-6

THEME: While There's Time*Aug 28***VERSE:** The dead do not praise the Lord,
Psalms 115:17**GOD THOUGHTS:**

In the back of every athlete's mind is the desire to take advantage of their opportunities because they never know how many chances they will have. They want to be known as the player who took advantage of the chances they were given. The same should be true in our relationship with God. We should seek everyday to live it to its fullest and to take advantage of every opportunity the Lord gives us. After we are dead it will be too late. Are you taking advantage of the time the Lord has given you?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Job 28:1-30:31 2 Corinthians 2:12-17
Psalm 42:1-11 Proverbs 22:7

THEME: Listening*Aug 29*

VERSE: I love the Lord, because He has heard My voice and my supplications. **Psalms 116:1**

GOD THOUGHTS:

When a timeout is called in sports, players gather around their coach and listen intently. They pay attention to everything that is said because they understand it could impact who wins the game. They understand the value of listening. One blessing of being a follower of Christ is that God listens to us just as intently as those athletes do their coach. He values what we have to say. No one will listen as closely to what we have to say. He understands us when we don't make sense to others. Have you thanked the Lord for listening to you?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Job 31:1-33:33 2 Corinthians 3:1-18
Psalm 43:1-5 Proverbs 22:8-9

THEME: Payback*Aug 30***VERSE:** What shall I render the Lord For all His benefits to me? **Psalms 116:12****GOD THOUGHTS:**

Every athlete understands there are rewards for hard work and dedication. Teams appreciate players who come in and work hard. Players are not criticized for their efforts for their team. Criticism belongs to those who don't give their best effort to the team. No one has ever given more and sacrificed more than Jesus did for humanity. Knowing this to be true we should not be critical of God. Our question should be, What can I do for Him?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Job 34:1-36:33 2 Corinthians 4:1-12
Psalm 44:1-8 Proverbs 22:10-12

THEME: Be at Peace*Aug 31*

VERSE: Return to your rest, O my soul, For the Lord has dealt bountifully with you. **Psalms 116:7**

GOD THOUGHTS:

For an athlete to perform at his peak, he must be at peace. He can't be worried, distracted, or troubled by a situation in his life. One thing that can help provide this inner peace is knowing that someone else is taking care of a situation. This allows them to focus on the game. For a Christian this inner peace should be a constant possession. God is always there for us, taking care of situations better than we could ourselves. Knowing this we should be more able to focus on living each day for Him. Are you living at peace, knowing that God is on your side?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Job 37:1-39:30 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:10
Psalm 44:9-26 Proverbs 22:13

THEME: Thoughts Become Words*Sept 1***VERSE:** I believed therefore I spoke,
Psalms 116:10**GOD THOUGHTS:**

Athletes have to be very careful about their words. Because of their status as athletes people pay more attention to their words. They also need to be careful about what they think because their words come from their thoughts. Our words are a sure reflection of what is going on in our minds. As a follower of Christ this holds true as well. We are representatives of Christ so we need to be careful what we think, because our thoughts are the place our words come from. Are you being careful in your thoughts knowing that is where your words come from?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Job 40:1-42:17 2 Corinthians 5:11-21
Psalm 45:1-17 Proverbs 22:14

THEME: Who's On Your Side?

Sept 2

VERSE: The Lord is on my side; I will not fear.

Psalms 118:6

GOD THOUGHTS:

One of the things that athletes learn in practice is what you can expect from each other in a game. They expect players to perform what they practice. In a game they expect other players to be able to play like they did in practice. They do not expect players to do things they can't do in practice. This knowing each other causes trust. By reading the Bible a Christian learns what he can expect from God. By learning what God is like trust should be increasing so that tough times are no longer feared. How do you face trouble knowing the Lord is on your side?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Ecclesiastes 1:1-3:22 2 Corinthians 6:1-13
Psalm 46:1-11 Proverbs 22:15

THEME: Who Do You Trust?

Sept 3

VERSE: It is better to trust in the Lord Than to put confidence in man. **Psalms 118:8**

GOD THOUGHTS:

It happens almost every game. Even great players miss shots and sometimes those missed shots cost your team the game. Then the decision is made can we trust the game to that player in the future. Most players won't trust another player with the game on the line if there is not a track record of success. Even Christians can sometimes let you down. But God will not let you down. He will always keep His promises. Knowing this we can trust in the Lord because He will be there when it really counts. Are you putting your trust in the Lord?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Ecclesiastes 4:1-6:12 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:7
Psalm 47:1-9 Proverbs 22:16

THEME: Grateful*Sept 4*

VERSE: Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! **Psalms 118:1**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Athletes are very good at being grateful. When a player makes a great play for their team they rush over and pat them on the back, hug them, or use some other gesture to show their excitement over their play. They know that celebrating the great play encourages the rest of the team to play well. Christians should celebrate God's goodness not just individually but as a group as well. This sharing and celebrating has the ability to encourage others who are struggling by reminding them of God's goodness. When was the last time you thanked God for His goodness to you?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Ecclesiastes 7:1-9:18 2 Corinthians 7:8-16
Psalm 48:1-14 Proverbs 22:17-19

THEME: Celebrating*Sept 5*

VERSE: The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tents of the righteous; **Psalms 118:15**

GOD THOUGHTS:

In sports the biggest celebrations are those for winning. The bigger the game, the bigger the celebration. Many times those special moments of celebration are their most priceless memories. The celebration confirms the reality of the moment. For Christians there is coming a day of celebration like none other. There will be so much to celebrate. But like a game not everyone will be celebrating. Only those who have become followers of Jesus will be celebrating. The difference in this is not play on a field but a decision made in life. Will you be celebrating on that final day?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Ecclesiastes 10:1-12:14 2 Corinthians 8:1-15
Psalm 49:1-20 Proverbs 22:20-21

THEME: First Impressions

Sept 6

VERSE: The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. **Psalms 118:22**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Every athlete knows first impressions are important but they are not everything. If they were many well known athletes would not be playing today. They know that the first rejection is not the final one. Jesus life reflects this principle. He came and was rejected. They rejected Him and He was crucified. But that is not how the story ends. Because of his sacrifice and resurrection He is now the way. He has gone from outcast to Savior and Lord. Does your life reflect Him?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Song of Solo. 1:1- 4:16 2 Corinthians 8:16-24
Psalm 50:1-23 Proverbs 22:22-23

THEME: Homecourt*Sept 7*

VERSE: This is the gate of the Lord, Through which the righteous shall enter. **Psalms 118:20**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Every team has one common characteristic. They love to play at home. They know it is their place, their locker room, their fans. They love to be there. They know when they walk through the door that they are home. For a Christian knowing where our home is should help us keep our focus. The Christian's home is the presence of God. By staying in a right relationship with God they can walk with confidence in this world. This gives us the confidence to stand in tough times. Are you living with a homecourt advantage?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Song of Solo. 5:1-8:14 2 Corinthians 9:1-15
Psalm 51:1-19 Proverbs 22:24-25

THEME: Give Praise*Sept 8*

VERSE: This was the Lord's doing; It is marvelous in our eyes. **Psalms 118:23**

GOD THOUGHTS:

As an athlete it is easy to tell who makes the difference in winning a game. Imagine how frustrated you would be if after scoring a lot of points in a game all the credit was given to a player who was only on the field for less than a minute. You would be frustrated. The same is true in our relationship with God. Many times people stand up and take credit for things only God could have done. Just as in sports this is wrong. Are you praising God for the things He has done in your life?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Isaiah 1:1-2:22 2 Corinthians 10:1-18
Psalms 52:1-9 Proverbs 22:26-27

THEME: Holiday*Sept 9*

VERSE: This is the day the Lord has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it. **Psalm 118:24**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Athletes enjoy celebrations because winning is what they celebrate. No one celebrates losing. So to an athlete all celebrations are special. These special days of celebration are forever etched into their minds. The more celebrations the better. To a follower of Christ we have something even better. We have a God who is always going to be victorious. Every day can be a day of celebration because He will never lose. What victories of God are you celebrating today?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Isaiah 3:1-5:30 2 Corinthians 11:1-15
Psalm 53:1-6 Proverbs 22:28-29

THEME: What Team Are You On?

Sept 10

VERSE: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! **Psalm 118:26**

GOD THOUGHTS:

One thing every athlete enjoys is running onto the field at the start of a game at home. To hear the applause and cheers lets them know the fans are for them. As a visitor you don't get the same response because you are representing the opponent. As followers of Christ we should welcome one another with joy and enthusiasm because we are on the same team. We shouldn't give the same response to those who represent the enemy. Do you cheer for those who represent the Lord?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Isaiah 6:1-7:25 2 Corinthians 11:16-33
Psalm 54:1-7 Proverbs 23:1-3

THEME: Devotion*Sept 11*

VERSE: Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, Who seek Him with the whole heart!

Psalms 119:2**GOD THOUGHTS:**

For an athlete to achieve greatness he has to give all of his heart and attention to his sport. An athlete focused on several sports will never be all he can be in any of them. So an athlete must choose the sport he will dedicate himself to and then focus on that. For a Christian he must follow the same path. You will never become all that you could have if your heart is not focused on God first. You need to make the choice to follow God and then live it out. Are you following Jesus with your whole heart?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Isaiah 8:1-9:21 2 Corinthians 12:1-10
Psalm 55:1-23 Proverbs 23:4-5

THEME: Rewards*Sept 12*

VERSE: Blessed are the undefiled in the way, Who walk in the law of the Lord! **Psalms 119:1**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Athletes are like the rest of us they enjoy rewards. There are times when an athlete has performed well in practice that he may get to go home early or when the team played very well in a game they may get a day off to rest. These rewards are ways of saying thank you for their dedication and hard work. Those who follow the Lord experience the same principle. God does reward and bless those who follow Him in obedience. If we are not obeying Him we should not expect the same rewards. What kind of rewards is your life earning?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Isaiah 10:1-11:16 2 Corinthians 12:11-21
Psalm 56:1-13 Proverbs 23:6-8

THEME: No Shame*Sept 13*

VERSE: Then I would not be ashamed, When I look into all your commandments. **Psalms 119:6**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Athlete's work very hard to avoid moral failures and rule violations because they bring shame. It is sad when you have given so much of your time and energy to be disqualified because you didn't follow a rule. If you can discipline yourself physically to perform then you should be able to discipline yourself morally. For Christians we should strive to live our lives in such a way that we can avoid bringing shame to ourselves and to the God we serve. If your life were put on TV for all to see would you be proud or ashamed?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Isaiah 12:1-14:32 2 Corinthians 13:1-14
Psalm 57:1-11 Proverbs 23:9-11

THEME: Diligence

Sept 14

VERSE: You have commanded us to keep Your precepts diligently. **Psalms 119:4**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Athletes are expected to do all things with diligence. Diligence is defined as constant and earnest effort. That means that every day they are expected to give their best. Anything less than that shows up very quickly in their play. A lack of diligence will equal a lack of playing time. As a Christian we are expected by God to give our best effort to follow Him every day. A lack of diligence in following Him will lead to many problems that we could have avoided. Are you giving your diligence to keep His Word?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Isaiah 15:1-18:7 Galatians 1:1-24
Psalms 58:1-11 Proverbs 23:12

THEME: Team Rules

Sept 15

VERSE: I will keep Your statutes; Oh, do not forsake me utterly! **Psalms 119:8**

GOD THOUGHTS:

All athletes understand that they play under the will of their team. If they live by the rules of the team and honor others on the team they will be able to stay. If they cause problems for the team by not following the rules then no matter how talented they are they will eventually be removed from the team. As followers of Christ we are expected to follow His commands and honor other followers. By doing this we have confidence in His help. Are you truly following Christ?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Isaiah 19:1-21:17 Galatians 2:1-16
Psalm 59:1-17 Proverbs 23:13-14

THEME: Direction

Sept 16

VERSE: Oh, that my ways were directed to keep
Your statutes! **Psalms 119:5**

GOD THOUGHTS:

One thing a player learns early is what direction to go. This is vital because going the wrong way will impact the team in a negative way. When a player goes the wrong way it is not quickly forgotten. Everything a team does is based on going the right direction. A follower of Christ is faced with the same situation. Everything God asks us to do is based on us going the right direction. When we don't those around us suffer the consequences along with us. Are you headed the right direction?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Isaiah 22:1-24:23 Galatians 2:17-3:9
Psalm 60:1-12 Proverbs 23:15-16

THEME: How to Change

Sept 17

VERSE: How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. **Psalms 119:9**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Athletes are sometimes confronted with a need to change. It is sometimes hard to believe that a long standing habit can be changed. And even then you may have a desire to change but you don't know how. The good news is that change is possible. God's Word outlines a plan for change that is foolproof. If we want to change we are simply asked to read the Word and then obey it. God has made it plain. The real question boils down to desire to change. How much do you want to change?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Isaiah 25:1-28:13 Galatians 3:10-22
Psalm 61:1-8 Proverbs 23:17-18

THEME: Whole Heartedly*Sept 18*

VERSE: With my whole heart I have sought you;
Psalms 119:10

GOD THOUGHTS:

One key to the success of any athlete is a whole hearted dedication to his sport. Anything less than this type of commitment will lead to disappointment both on the part of the player and the team. A player will never reach his full potential without this type of commitment. The same is true for a follower of Christ. You can never be all that God meant for you to be with anything less than whole hearted effort. Are you giving your whole heart to following Christ?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Isaiah 28:14-30:11 Galatians 3:23-4:31
Psalm 62:1-12 Proverbs 23:19-21

THEME: Repeat Please*Sept 19***VERSE:** With my lips I have declared All the judgments of Your mouth. **Psalms 119:13****GOD THOUGHTS:**

Athletes are sometimes asked to repeat back to the coach what he has just told them. This can be because they think the athlete is not listening but more often it is because repeating what you just heard reinforces it in your mind. It increases the ability to remember things. Something quite simple can increase the remembrance of facts. As a follower of Christ this is important. By repeating to someone else what we learn we increase our remembrance and help them to learn as well. Who are you repeating the Word to?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Isaiah 30:12-33:9 Galatians 5:1-12
Psalm 63:1-11 Proverbs 23:22

THEME: In Your Heart

Sept 20

VERSE: Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You. **Psalms 119:11**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Athletes should focus time, effort, and energy into knowing all they can about their sport. This can help them to avoid making mistakes and help make their athletic efforts more successful. It would be shameful to fail because of lack of effort to acquire information that is easily available. As a follower of Christ this same situation applies. Focused time, effort, and energy to learn the Word of God will pay off for the rest of your life. No one wants to fail. Are you applying your time, effort, and energy to learn the Word?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Isaiah 33:10-36:22 Galatians 5:13-26
Psalms 64:1-10 Proverbs 23:23

THEME: Value*Sept 21*

VERSE: I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, As much as in all riches. **Psalms 119:14**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Athletes have learned that some things are as valuable as money. Good coaching, good training, and good relationships are more valuable than money. Health is more valuable than money. There are some things that money can't buy. Knowing that you should spend your life in pursuit of those things. A relationship with God is more important than money. That means that you should put more effort into your relationship with God than you do in pursuit of money. What do you value most?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Isaiah 37:1-38:22 Galatians 6:1-18
Psalm 65:1-13 Proverbs 23:24

THEME: Thinking

Sept 22

VERSE: I will meditate on Your precepts, And
contemplete Your ways. **Psalms 119:15**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Athletes spend a great deal of time thinking about the next game. About their performance and what specific things they are asked to do in the game. They understand there is a connection between thinking and performance. To perform in a certain way you must think about that performance. As a follower of Christ we must think about how we should live. If we don't think about it, we won't do it. What do you think about?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Isaiah 39:1-41:16 Ephesians 1:1-23
Psalm 66:1-20 Proverbs 23:25-28

THEME: Complaining*Sept 25*

VERSE: TYou rebuke the proud-the cursed, Who stray from Your commandments. **Psalm 119:21**

GOD THOUGHTS:

One of the enemies of athletes is pride. When you are performing well people come and praise you. It is easy to stop and think that you have done it all yourself. While it does take a lot of effort every athlete uses ability that they were born with. Plus they have had coaches and trainers work with them. They are a product of many things. As Christians we need to remember this as well. We are where we are today because of God and the help of others. Do you struggle with pride?

MY THOUGHTS:**READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Isaiah 41:17-43:13 Ephesians 2:1-22
Psalm 67:1-7 Proverbs 23:29-35

THEME: Enjoy*Sept 24*

VERSE: I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word. **Psalms 119:16**

GOD THOUGHTS:

An athlete that enjoys his sport will always perform better than one who treats it like work. When you enjoy it you don't worry about the time it takes to learn, the effort it takes to excel, and the physical demand that his sport requires. The same is true for a follower of Christ. If you enjoy your walk with Jesus then that joy will help you to accomplish what He asks you to do. A person who thinks it is work to follow God will always struggle to follow Him. Do you enjoy your walk with God?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Isaiah 43:14-45:10 Ephesians 3:1-21
Psalm 68:1-18 Proverbs 24:1-2

THEME: Strength*Sept 25*

VERSE: My soul melts from heaviness; Strengthen me according to Your word. **Psalms 119:28**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Athletes have times when they need to find some additional strength and motivation. When things are going wrong and they aren't playing as well as they normally do. They need to find a place to go to for encouragement and strength. Being a follower of Christ doesn't exempt one from having struggles and bad days. The difference is that we can go to Christ for help, encouragement, and strength. He has promised us this in His word. Where do you go for strength?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Isaiah 45:11-48:11 Ephesians 4:1-16
Psalm 68:19-35 Proverbs 24:3-4

THEME: Choose Your Path

Sept 26

VERSE: I have chosen the way of truth; Your judgments I have laid before me. **Psalms 119:30**

GOD THOUGHTS:

One path that an athlete has chosen is sports. Every decision we make leads us down a path. Some choose the path of self-reliance. Some choose the path of self-indulgence. All of these decisions impact our lives and ultimately all of those around us. The single best decision one can make in life is to follow Christ. When we choose the way of truth it makes other decisions for us. This decision leads to a good ending. Which path have you chosen?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Isaiah 48:12-50:11 Ephesians 4:17-32
Psalm 69:1-18 Proverbs 24:5-6

VERSE: Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; Indeed I shall observe it with my whole heart. **Psalms 119:34**

GOD THOUGHTS:

As an athlete you a team you don't want another player on your team who only shows up when they want to and only plays hard occasionally, you want a player who is all in, all the time. It would be so frustrating to deal with another person who is not completely committed to the team. God views our situation the same way. He is looking for people who are completely committed to His cause not those who are only there occasionally. A person who is giving his all helps all of those around him be better. Are you all in?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Isaiah 51:1-53:12 Ephesians 5:1-33
Psalm 69:19-36 Proverbs 24:7

THEME: Finishing

Sept 28

VERSE: Teach me, O Lord, the way of Your statutes,
And I shall keep it to the end. **Psalms 119:33**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Athletes have to make choices about who they will listen to. These choices will have a direct impact on their destiny. Therefore they should choose who they listen to carefully. The direction you choose ultimately will change where you end up. To get where you want to go you must take a path that leads there. Even for Christians we must choose our paths in life carefully. Following the Lord is the only sure way to get where we ultimately want to be. Are the paths you are choosing leading you where you want to go?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Isaiah 54:1-57:14 Ephesians 6:1-24
Psalm 70:1-5 Proverbs 24:8

THEME: Eliminate Distractions

Sept 29

VERSE: Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, **Psalms 119:37**

GOD THOUGHTS:

For an athlete one of the keys to success is to eliminate distractions. If a professional athlete spend his time playing video games instead of practicing his sport his play would deteriorate. People would think it foolish to waste time on something that wouldn't help them be successful at their chosen sport. This is a perfect mirror for the follower of Christ. If we want to follow Christ we can't be chasing other things. These things will lead us away from God. What distractions do you need to eliminate?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Isaiah 57:15-59:21 Philippians 1:1-26
Psalm 71:1-24 Proverbs 24:9-10

THEME: Respect for Leaders

Sept 30

VERSE: Establish Your word to Your servant, Who is devoted to fearing you. **Psalms 119:38**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Another key to success for an athlete is respect for their leadership. When a team or even a player loses respect for their coach their level of performance will drop dramatically. This is not an easy situation to fix. Without respect for their leadership a team will drift instead of following a set path. As a Christian we all have a set path that God has chosen for us to follow. That sometimes includes us following human leadership that he has established. When we lose respect for them we suffer and the work of God suffers. Do you have respect for your leadership?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Isaiah 60:1-62:5 Philippians 1:27-2:18
Psalm 72:1-20 Proverbs 24:11-12

THEME: Praise Him*Oct 1*

VERSE: I will speak of Your testimonies also before kings, And will not be ashamed, **Psalms 78:21**

GOD THOUGHTS:

One very common pitfall for athletes is to focus on themselves. They talk about themselves and often their play is focused on themselves. For awhile this is tolerated but after some time has passed the other players on the team no longer enjoy playing with or being around this player. A well-liked athlete talks about his team and focuses on helping his team do better. A true follower of Christ will always speak of the things of God and keep his focus on helping others to follow Him. Is your focus more on Him or on yourself?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Isaiah 62:6-65:25 Philippians 2:19-3:3
Psalm 73:1-28 Proverbs 24:13-14

THEME: Freedom

Oct 2

VERSE: And I will walk at liberty, For I seek Your precepts. **Psalm 119:45**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Some athletes want to set their own rules and continually challenge the system. The result of this is that there is continual conflict and a lot of wasted time and energy. They haven't discovered the freedom that comes from playing and living within the rules. There are no negative consequences for playing by the rules. As a follower of Christ it is the same. Ultimate freedom comes from living within the guidelines He has given us. When we get off His path we get into trouble. Are you living in freedom?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Isaiah 66:1-24 Philippians 3:4-21
Psalm 74:1-23 Proverbs 24:15-16

THEME: I Will

Oct 3

VERSE: My hands also I will lift up to Your commandments, **Psalms 119:48**

GOD THOUGHTS:

One of the keys to being successful as an athlete is the ability to follow instructions. There are many talented people not playing sports because they would not follow instructions. Teams win or lose on the basis of players following instructions. As Christians our lives are a blessing or a problem depending on how we follow the instructions God has given us. The raising of one's hands is a sign of surrender. Will you lift up your hands and surrender to God and follow His instructions for living?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Jeremiah 1:1-2:30 Philippians 4:1-23
Psalm 75:1-10 Proverbs 24:17-20

THEME: Thinking About It

Oct 4

VERSE: I will meditate on Your statutes.

Psalms 119:48

GOD THOUGHTS:

For an athlete an often overlooked part of the game is the mental part. Athletes that take the time to study their game and learn the game plans of their coaches reap the biggest rewards. In a close game the mental aspect can be the difference between winning and losing. Know your sport and your plan. The same holds true for a follower of Christ. A person who studies the Word and seeks to live it out will have a life that stands in the tough times. Are you thinking about and following His plans for living?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Jeremiah 2:31-4:18 Colossians 1:1-17
Psalm 76:1-12 Proverbs 24:21-22

THEME: Strength*Oct 5*

VERSE: This is my comfort in my affliction, For Your word has given me life. **Psalm 119:50**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Not only do athletes get hope from words but they can also gain strength. Where there was only fatigue there can be renewed strength and determination. Games have been won and lost based on responding to the words of their leader. The Word of God does this for the believer. When there is only tiredness and fatigue a life can be renewed and restored by the Words of the King. Instead of weariness in the battle there is a change of momentum that can lead to victory. Are you looking to the Word of God for your strength?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Jeremiah 4:19-6:15 Colossians 1:18-2:7
Psalm 77:1-20 Proverbs 24:23-25

THEME: Hope

Oct 6

VERSE: Remember the word to Your servant, Upon which you have caused me to hope. **Psalms 119:50**

GOD THOUGHTS:

An athlete that has hope has power to win. An athlete without hope faces certain defeat. One of the roles of a coach is to provide encouragement which fuels hope. He has to recognize a player that has a need for this encouragement. God is a perfect example of the one who provides encouragement when we need it. He constantly watches us and gives us His word ahead of time so that it is there when we need it. Are you finding hope by listening to His words?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Jeremiah 6:16-8:7 Colossians 2:8-23
Psalms 78:1-31 Proverbs 24:26

THEME: Not Intimidated*Oct 7*

VERSE: The proud have me in great derision, Yet I do not turn aside from Your law. **Psalms 119:51**

GOD THOUGHTS:

As an athlete you must never be intimidated. Intimidation wins the battle before it starts. Regardless of the size of the enemy or their ability the game is not over until the final whistle. Teams that refuse to be intimidated have won huge upsets. For a follower of Christ we should never be intimidated by the world or the devil. These things may look tough but they are already defeated. Their only hope is to intimidate you into handing them a victory. Have you been intimidated by the world?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Jeremiah 8:8-9:26 Colossians 3:1-17
Psalm 78:32-55 Proverbs 24:27

THEME: Consistency*Oct 8*

VERSE: I remembered Your judgments of old, O Lord, And have comforted myself. **Psalm 119:52**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Athletes are just like many other people in that they don't like change. They love and find comfort in routine. Following the routine encourages the athletes in their quest for success. Knowing the routine and the rules gives them confidence in their daily lives. For a follower in Christ the same is true. God's rules do not change and provide comfort and security for the the Christian. Are you walking consistently with God?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Jeremiah 10:1-11:23 Colossians 3:18-4:18
Psalm 78:56-72 Proverbs 24:28-29

THEME: Connecting*Oct 9*

VERSE: This has become mine, Because I kept
Your precepts. **Psalms 119:56**

GOD THOUGHTS:

There is a time for an athlete where what he is being told to do becomes automatic. This is the point of connection. Where the words equal actions. This is the moment when frustrations cease and joy is found in the performance. For a Christian this is an important moment as well. When what God is asking us to do equals how we are living there is tremendous joy and freedom. This moment of connection is an exciting time. It is a product of time and self-discipline. Have you reached the point of connection?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Jeremiah 12:1-14:10 1 Thessalonians 1 :1-2:8
Psalms 79:1-13 Proverbs 24:30-34

THEME: Fight Songs

Oct 10

VERSE: Your statutes have been my songs In the house of my pilgrimage. **Psalms 119:54**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Athletes like ancient warriors like to go into battle singing songs about their exploits. These encourage and motivate them to focus on the game at hand. There is something about music that motivates us and gives us joy. For a follower of Christ this makes sense. Singing songs of worship helps us to be encouraged and motivated in our walk with God. The difference in these songs is the lyrics are focused on God. We also receive joy in the song. What songs are you singing as you face the day?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Jeremiah 14:11-16:15 1 Thessalonians 2:9-3:13
Psalm 80:1-19 Proverbs 25:1-5

THEME: Whole Hearted

Oct 11

VERSE: I entreated Your favor with my whole heart; **Psalms 119:58**

GOD THOUGHTS:

One of the keys to being an athlete is the ability to play whole heartedly. An athlete who is not giving his total effort will not achieve much and will not draw praise from his coach or the fans. An athlete is at his best when he gives his whole hearted effort. The same is true for a follower of Christ. A Christian who puts no effort into following Christ gains no praise from Christ. A follower of Christ who gives a whole hearted effort will gain praise and recognition. Are you whole heartedly following Christ?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Jeremiah 16:16-18:23 1 Thessalonians 4:1-5:3
Psalm 81:1-16 Proverbs 25:6-8

THEME: Your Reward

Oct 12

VERSE: You are my portion, O Lord;

Psalms 119:57

GOD THOUGHTS:

Athlete's all perform for a reward. For some it is simply the joy of winning a game, for others it is the applause of fans, a trophy, or even winning a championship. An athlete who is not seeking a reward tends to perform poorly. The same is true for Christians. For a Christian the reward can be blessings, but the ultimate reward is Christ himself. If a Christian is focused on anything else it becomes an idol. It is important for a Christian to know what his reward is. What is your reward?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Jeremiah 19:1-21:14 1 Thessalonians 5:4-28
Psalm 82:1-8 Proverbs 25:9-10

THEME: Priorities

Oct 13

VERSE: I made haste, and did not delay To keep
Your commandments. **Psalms 119:60**

GOD THOUGHTS:

An athlete has to have priorities. If he does not prioritize the right things it will impact his performance in negative ways. For an athlete the priorities would include: healthy eating, adequate rest, and practice. Christians should have priorities as well. These priorities will determine how effective the Christian will be in his service of Christ. These priorities include Bible study, prayer, and Church attendance. What are your priorities?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Jeremiah 22:1-23:20 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12
Psalm 83:1-18 Proverbs 25:11-14

THEME: Evaluated*Oct 14*

VERSE: I thought about my ways, And turned my feet to Your testimonies. **Psalms 119:59**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Another key to athletic performance is to evaluate your performance. Without a truthful and careful examination there is no hope for improvement. A good athlete focuses on evaluation and then on taking the making the changes needed for improvement. This parallels the Christian life. A Christian is expected to evaluate his by the Word of God. Then as the Holy Spirit directs changes should be made. Are you evaluating your life and making changes?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Jeremiah 23:21-25:38 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17
Psalm 84:1-12 Proverbs 25:15

THEME: Overcoming Opposition

Oct 15

VERSE: The cords of the wicked have bound me,
But I have not forgotten Your law. **Psalms 119:61**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Every athlete faces opposition at some point. How they handle it says everything about them. The ability to face and overcome opposition says a lot about their character. When opposition comes some people rise to face it while others pull back from it. Just like athletes Christians often face opposition. And just like athletes some face opposition bravely while others pull back from it. A focus on Christ helps keep us moving forward when we face opposition. How do you react when you face opposition?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Jeremiah 26:1-27:22 2 Thessalonians 3:1-18
Psalm 85:1-13 Proverbs 25:16

THEME: Sacrifice*Oct 16*

VERSE: At midnight I will rise to give thanks to You, **Psalm 119:62**

GOD THOUGHTS:

One aspect of every successful athlete is sacrifice. There are some things they give up in order to gain their goal. Things like personal time, sleep, and certain foods are all sacrificed in order to get something they want more. This is a wonderful lesson for a follower of Jesus Christ. There are some things on this earth that we must willingly give up in order to gain that prize that only God can give. What are you sacrificing in order to follow God?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Jeremiah 28:1-29:32 1 Timothy 1:1-20
Psalm 86:1-17 Proverbs 25:17

THEME: Guidelines*Oct 17*

VERSE: You have dealt well with Your servant, O Lord, according to Your word. **Psalms 119:65**

GOD THOUGHTS:

One of the most interesting relationships in sports is that of an athlete and his coach. Because this involves supervision and motivation this relationship can get tense. An athlete doesn't always want to follow what the coach tells him but he knows that it is better for them if he follows the coach. This mirrors the life of a Christian in that it is not always easy to obey God but you will always benefit from it. Are you following the directions that God is giving you?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Jeremiah 30:1-31:26 1 Timothy 2:1-15
Psalms 87:1-7 Proverbs 25:18-19

THEME: Knowing Your Team

Oct 18

VERSE: I am a companion of all who fear You,
Psalms 119:63

GOD THOUGHTS:

One key to winning in sports is teamwork. You have to know who is on your team and you have to identify with them. This sense of belonging and being part of a whole creates unity and synergy which helps the team to victory. For the Christian this is an important concept as well. By identifying with those on the team it creates strength which help the Christian to stand strong during trials. Are you part of a team that is striving to live for God?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Jeremiah 31:27-32:44 1 Timothy 3:1-16
Psalm 88:1-18 Proverbs 25:20-22

THEME: Well Taught*Oct 19***VERSE:** Teach me good judgment and knowledge,
Psalms 119:66**GOD THOUGHTS:**

For an athlete the ability to look at a situation, realize what he needs to do, and then do it is invaluable. The reality is that all this needs to happen in a moment of time. The fastest way to acquire this knowledge is to be taught because it would take years of mistakes to learn it on your own. As a Christian the ability to look at a situation and do what is right is just as invaluable. It would be better to learn from someone else than to make all the mistakes yourself. Who are you teaching you how to live your life?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Jeremiah 33:1-34:22 1 Timothy 4:1-16
Psalm 89:1-13 Proverbs 25:23-24

THEME: Comeback

VERSE: Before I was afflicted I went astray, But now I keep Your word. **Psalm 119:67**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Some athletes seem to be heading downhill and then their career makes a comeback. The comeback is not fueled by new athletic ability. The secret is the athlete sees the mistake of trying to do things his own way and decides to follow the advice he is given. A Christian can also experience a comeback in his life. It will happen when you cease to live for yourself and begin to live according to God's Word. When this happens a dramatic change will occur. Are you living according to His word?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Jeremiah 35:1-36:32 1 Timothy 5:1-25
Psalm 89:14-37 Proverbs 25:25-27

THEME: Hard Lessons*Oct 21*

VERSE: It is good for me that I have been afflicted,
That I may learn Your statutes. **Psalms 119:71**

GOD THOUGHTS:

As painful as it sometimes can be some lessons are only learned through pain and difficulties. A team which just won a championship credited the pain of losing the previous year with teaching them what it took to be a champion. They think it was worth it. Even as Christians there are things we can only learn through pain and struggle. While we don't enjoy the pain we should enjoy the results. The struggle can only teach us when we want to learn from it. Are your struggles making you better or bitter?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Jeremiah 37:1-38:28 1 Timothy 6:1-21
Psalm 89:38-52 Proverbs 25:28

THEME: Standing Strong

Oct 22

VERSE: The proud have forged a lie against me,
But I will keep Your precepts with my whole heart.

Psalms 119:69

GOD THOUGHTS:

Every athlete will face moments when your motives and effort will be questioned. These can be difficult times. It is at these moments it is important to say the right things, but it is even more important to remember to be seen doing the right things. Actions alone will silence the doubters. For Christians there are times when people will doubt us as well. It is important to remember that words won't silence the doubters but right actions will. Are you living in a way that could silence any doubters?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Jeremiah 39:1-41:18 2 Timothy 1:1-18
Psalm 90:1-91:16 Proverbs 26:1-2

THEME: True Value*Oct 23*

VERSE: The law of Your mouth is better to me
Than thousands of coins of gold and silver.

Psalms 119:72

GOD THOUGHTS:

Athletes should know there are things more important than fame and money. Some have made a lot of money and have nothing today, while others made a little and have more today. The difference is what you invest your time and money into. For a follower of Christ the same is true. If we make it our goal to pursue money we could end up with nothing. If we pursue the things of God we will have rewards for eternity. Your life pursues what you value. What are you pursuing?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Jeremiah 42:1-44:23 2 Timothy 2:1-21
Psalm 92:1-93:5 Proverbs 26:3-5

THEME: Leadership

Oct 24

VERSE: Let those who fear You turn to me,
Psalms 119:79

GOD THOUGHTS:

Every team needs an athlete who will take leadership in tough situations. This type of athlete is consistent and the other players already know what to expect from him. When the going gets tough others turn to him. As a follower of Christ this should be the type of person we strive to be. So consistent in our walk with God that others know what to expect from us. Others have already been watching us and our actions have created expectations good or bad. When people look at your life do they turn to you in difficult situations?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Jeremiah 44:24-47:7 2 Timothy 2:22-3:17
Psalm 94:1-23 Proverbs 26:6-8

THEME: Effort

Oct 25

VERSE: My soul faints for Your salvation,
Psalms 78:21**GOD THOUGHTS:**

One of the keys to being a great athlete is effort. The interesting thing is that many times it is not even a conscious decision. It should be noted when it is a conscious decision that effort usually goes up dramatically. This is a picture of Christianity. Many are giving an effort without even giving it a conscious thought. We many times talk about how important it is to serve God without thinking about our effort. Have you made a decision to give your complete effort to following God?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Jeremiah 48:1-49:22 2 Timothy 4:1-22
Psalm 95:1-96:13 Proverbs 26:9-12

THEME: Excellence*Oct 26***VERSE:** Let my heart be blameless regarding Your statutes, **Psalms 119:80****GOD THOUGHTS:**

Every athlete strives for excellence. They want to follow the game plan and do all they are asked to do. They build a reputation for excellence or inconsistency. One of the keys is paying attention and knowing what is expected of you. What a perfect parallel for the Christian life. We should all strive for excellence. To help make this happen we should be reading the Word and listening to the Holy Spirit. Are you building a reputation of excellence in following Christ or inconsistency?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Jeremiah 49:23-50:46 Titus 1:1-16
Psalm 97:1-98:9 Proverbs 26:13-16

THEME: Unchangeable*Oct 27***VERSE:** Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven. **Psalms 119:89****GOD THOUGHTS:**

Athletes tend to push the limits physically. One area where they shouldn't push the limits is that of the rules. Breaking the rules hurts them and their team. The rules don't change so they should learn them and live within them. For the Christian we know that God's rules are unchangeable. When we break God's rules we hurt ourselves and those around us. We should strive to learn God's rules so that they can live within them. Are you living by God's rules?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Jeremiah 51:1-53 Titus 2:1-15
Psalm 99:1-9 Proverbs 26:17

THEME: Avoiding Trouble

Oct 28

VERSE: Unless Your law had been my delight, I would then have perished in my affliction.

Psalms 119:92

GOD THOUGHTS:

Athletes need to have boundaries in their personal lives. Without these guard rails their careers can get derailed. This works best when the athletes decide what boundaries they want in their lives instead of having somebody else tell them what they need to do or not do. Christians can keep their lives on track and avoid trouble by having personal boundaries in their lives. A Christian should study the Bible and use that as the guide for their boundaries. The Bible is the guide that will keep you out of trouble. Are you living according to the Bible?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Jeremiah 51:54-52:34 Titus 3:1-15
Psalm 100:1-5 Proverbs 26:18-19

THEME: Responsibility*Oct 29***VERSE:** My life is continually in my hand,
Psalm 119:109**GOD THOUGHTS:**

A wise athlete takes responsibility for his life and performance in sports. By being able to say I did well or I did not play well it frees the athlete from having to be perfect. By taking responsibility they acknowledge that their choices impact their lives and performance. A Christian should also be able to take responsibility for his choices and how it impacts his life. They should also be able to admit when they have lived well and when they have not. This responsibility also includes the responsibility to change. Have you accepted responsibility for your life?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Lamentations 1:1-2:22 Philemon 1:1-25
Psalm 101:1-8 Proverbs 26:20

THEME: Playbook

Oct 30

VERSE: You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; **Psalms 119:98**

GOD THOUGHTS:

An athlete can get an advantage over his opponents by spending time learning the playbook and the rules of his sport. This extra knowledge when translated into action can be the difference between victory and defeat. A Christian can also gain an advantage over his enemies by spending time reading the Bible. By knowing the Word we can avoid certain situations and also walk in relationship with God. This relationship gives guidance to make wise decisions. Are you studying God's playbook?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Lamentations 3:1-66 Hebrews 1:1-14
Psalm 102:1-28 Proverbs 26:21-22

THEME: Loyalty

Oct 31

VERSE: I have inclined my heart to perform Your statutes Forever, to the very end. **Psalms 119:112**

GOD THOUGHTS:

For an athlete loyalty is an important character trait. Loyalty to a certain team and the other players on that team is expected. That decision should be firm and not on and off again. When we set our hearts to go a certain direction it makes many decisions for us. Loyalty is also important for a Christian. One shouldn't pledge loyalty to God and then not live like he asks you to. The decision should be consistent and lived out daily. This decision also makes many other decisions for us. Does your life reflect loyalty to God?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Lamentations 4:1-5:22 Hebrews 2:1-18
Psalm 103:1-22 Proverbs 26:23

THEME: Hope

Nov 1

VERSE: Uphold me according to Your word, that I may live; And do not let me be ashamed of my hope. **Psalm 119:116**

GOD THOUGHTS:

For an athlete a critical factor is hope. Without hope for improvement or optimism there is no power for the future. Yet an athlete can be sometimes criticized for having hope when the situation is tough. But to give up the hope would be to admit defeat. As a follower of Christ hope is just as powerful. What God has promised He will do. There will always be a reason to have hope for the future. Even though others may doubt the Christian has no reason to. Are you living with the power of hope?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Ezekiel 1:1-3:15 Hebrews 3:1-19
Psalm 104:1-23 Proverbs 26:24-26

THEME: Determination

Nov 2

VERSE: TMy eyes fail from seeking Your salvation
And Your righteous word. **Psalms 119:123**

GOD THOUGHTS:

For an athlete determination is the key. That means giving it all until your body quits on you. Pushing yourself to the limits. Until this happens an athlete never knows how good he can be. He will surpass others with more talent but less determination. As a Christian this is often overlooked. It takes passion and determination to be all that you can be for Christ. Many Christians have failed to reach their potential because they have not given their all. Are you determined to follow Christ?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Ezekiel 3:16-6:14 Hebrews 4:1-16
Psalm 104:24-35 Proverbs 26:27

THEME: Rules

Nov 3

VERSE: You reject all those who stray from Your statutes, **Psalms 119:118**

GOD THOUGHTS:

An athlete understands the power of rules. These rules help bind the team together and provide a structure to help the team succeed. Without the rules the team would be in chaos and have no unity. In order to protect the team a player who won't obey the rules is often asked to leave. A Christian should understand the power of rules as well. They protect his family and himself from the consequences of evil. Are you living by the rules that God has given you?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Ezekiel 7:1-9:11 Hebrews 5:1-14
Psalm 105:1-15 Proverbs 26:28

THEME: Teachable

Nov 4

VERSE: Deal with Your servant according to Your mercy, And teach me Your statutes. **Psalms 119:124**

GOD THOUGHTS:

An athlete should be teachable. That means that he is always working to improve. Someone who is not teachable should not expect to improve. It is amazing how many top athletes hire their own private coaches to help them to be all that they can be. As a follower of Christ we should not overlook the importance of being teachable as well. Someone who is not teachable will continue to make the same mistakes over and over again. Are you teachable?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Ezekiel 10:1-11:25 Hebrews 6:1-20
Psalm 105:16-36 Proverbs 27:1-2

THEME: Longing*Nov 5*

VERSE: I opened my mouth and panted, For I longed for Your commandments. **Psalms 119:131**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Athletes work out their physical bodies so hard that they get short of breath. They do this because they want to win a championship. Those who won't push themselves that hard should not expect to be winners. The spiritual life of a Christian should mirror that of an athlete. The effort required to grow as a Christian is just as demanding as physical exercise. You shouldn't expect to grow if you won't put out the effort. Are you putting out the effort to grow?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Ezekiel 12:1-14:11 Hebrews 7:1-17
Psalm 105:37-45 Proverbs 27:3

THEME: Desire

Nov 6

VERSE: Consider how I love Your precepts;
Psalms 119:159**GOD THOUGHTS:**

For an athlete the level of desire is a key to success. Without desire an athlete will eventually quit or settle for "good enough". This means that his level of performance will go down. While an athlete with more desire but less ability will surpass him. As a follower of Christ desire is a key element as well. Without desire a Christian will cease to grow and will sometimes fall away from following Christ. While someone is not as gifted may make a greater difference for Christ. Do you have a strong desire to live for God?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Ezekiel 14:12-16:41 Hebrews 7:18-28
Psalm 106:1-12 Proverbs 27:4-6

THEME: No Quitting

Nov 7

VERSE: Many are my persecutors and enemies, Yet I do not turn from Your testimonies. **Psalms 119:157**

GOD THOUGHTS:

At some point in every athlete's career he will have to face opposition. People will say things that aren't true and also magnify every mistake that he makes. How he handles this is the test. Will he stay focused on playing the game or will he allow this criticism to stop him. As Christians there will be opposition. Some will speak lies about us while others will magnify every mistake we make. How you handle this situation is the test. Will you keep living for Christ or get discouraged and quit?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Ezekiel 16:42-17:24 Hebrews 8:1-13
Psalm 106:13-31 Proverbs 27:7-9

THEME: Who Are You Listening To?

Nov 8

VERSE: The entirety of Your word is truth,
Psalms 119:160**GOD THOUGHTS:**

Another thing an athlete has to decide is who to listen to. There are many people out there offering advice on what to do or what not to do. The thing to remember is that all the people who are offering advice do not face your consequences. Think carefully about who you listen to. The follower of Christ knows who he should listen to. The Bible contains God's truth and can always be relied on to give good advice. Are you listening to God?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Ezekiel 18:1-19:14 Hebrews 9:1-10
Psalm 106:32-48 Proverbs 27:10

THEME: Stand Firm

Nov 9

VERSE: Princes persecute me without a cause,
But my heart stands in awe of Your word.

Psalms 119:161

GOD THOUGHTS:

As an athlete there will be times when you have to stand firm in the face of criticism. Knowing what to do when people don't agree with what you are doing is important. Sometimes criticism will help and sometimes it can hurt you. Knowing what to stand on makes the difference. As a follower of Christ there will be times of criticism as well. Knowing how to handle these times when people don't agree with you is important. When you are in this situation, what do you stand on?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Ezekiel 20:1-49 Hebrews 9:11-28
Psalm 107:1-43 Proverbs 27:11

THEME: Consistency*Nov 10***VERSE:** Seven times a day I praise You,
Psalm 119:164**GOD THOUGHTS:**

Another key to an athlete's success is consistency. For an athlete to perform well it is important to practice on a consistent basis. Without consistent practice the performance will suffer. With consistent effort the performance will improve. In a similar way one of the keys to growth as a Christian is consistency in your personal Bible study and prayer. Without this consistency your walk with God will suffer and your life will be inconsistent at best. Are you consistently spending time with God?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Ezekiel 21:1-22:31 Hebrews 10:1-17
Psalm 108:1-13 Proverbs 27:12

THEME: Value*Nov 11*

VERSE: I rejoice at Your word As one who finds great treasure. **Psalms 119:162**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Who to listen to is a key to an athlete's success. The coach is usually the most important voice for the athlete. While everyone may have an opinion the voice of the coach has the greatest value. His purpose is to help the athlete be all he can be. The Christian needs people like this in his life as well. The value of the Word of God is that it speaks to every situation with wisdom. The Bible is there to guide us to God and His will. Other people may have an opinion but God's Word is always right. Who's advice do you value?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Ezekiel 23:1-49 Hebrews 10:18-39
Psalm 109:1-31 Proverbs 27:13

THEME: Confidence

Nov 12

VERSE: Great peace have those who love Your law,
Psalm 119:165**GOD THOUGHTS:**

As an athlete approaches a game it is important to have confidence in his preparation. Without this preparation there is always doubt in the back of an athlete's mind about how to handle situations. This doubt can lead to loss. Preparation is a key to confidence. As a follower of Christ preparation is a key to handling life's challenges. Without preparation life's situations can be overwhelming and lead to failure. Preparation can bring confidence. Are preparing to face life's challenges?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Ezekiel 24:1-26:21 Hebrews 11:1-16
Psalm 110:1-7 Proverbs 27:14

THEME: Being Heard

Nov 13

VERSE: Let my cry come before You, O Lord;
Psalms 119:169

GOD THOUGHTS:

As an athlete you can earn the right to be heard by your coach. If you are constantly not paying attention or following the coaches' instructions he will not listen to you when you have advice. When you have proven that you are listening you gain favor that will benefit you in the future. This parallels walking with God. If we don't obey God how can we expect Him to answer our prayers. When our lives are characterized by obedience then God delights in answering our prayers. Is your life reflecting obedience to God?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Ezekiel 27:1-28:26 Hebrews 11:17-31
Psalm 111:1-10 Proverbs 27:15-16

THEME: My Help

Nov 14

VERSE: My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth. **Psalms 121:2****GOD THOUGHTS:**

Athlete's love to have another player around them to rely on when the going gets tough. This player can sometimes help overcome a bad situation and will stand with you when the going gets tough. When this player is not there the game gets a lot more difficult. For Christians our help is found in the Lord. We can rely on him when the going gets tough. Without Him all of our situations will be a lot more difficult. There is not a situation that God can't handle. Is God your help when times get tough?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Ezekiel 29:1-30:26 Hebrews 11:32-12:13
Psalm 112:1-10 Proverbs 27:17

THEME: Rescue*Nov 15*

VERSE: Let Your hand become my help, For I have chosen Your precepts. **Psalms 119:173**

GOD THOUGHTS:

As an athlete there will be moments when you need the help of your teammates. If you haven't been there for other players and haven't been following the team rules you can find yourself alone when things get tough. As a follower of Christ we can count on the Lord's help in tough times because of our obedience to Him. If our lives are not characterized by following His rules then we may find ourselves alone when times are tough. Are you preparing for the challenges ahead with obedience today?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Ezekiel 31:1-32:32 Hebrews 12:14-29
Psalm 113:1-114:8 Proverbs 27:18-20

THEME: Refreshing

Nov 16

VERSE: The Lord is your shade at your right hand.
Psalms 121:5**GOD THOUGHTS:**

One thing that athletes cherish is refreshment. In the middle of a game something to drink, rest, and getting out of the weather can recharge both the physical and emotional energy of the athlete. This refreshing can improve the performance the rest of the way. The same is also true for Christians. Life can wear you down and make you tired. God can come and provide refreshing for you that will give you renewed physical, emotional, and spiritual energy. Have you experienced the refreshing of the Lord?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Ezekiel 33:1-34:31 Hebrews 13:1-25
Psalm 115:1-18 Proverbs 27:21-22

THEME: Security*Nov 17***VERSE:** The Lord is your keeper; **Psalm 121:5****GOD THOUGHTS:**

Athletes in many countries travel with security. These people are paid to keep them safe from those who would harm them. With the security in place the athlete is free to focus on playing his sport. Without trusted security the player would always be distracted and his level of play would decline. As a Christian there is never a doubt about whether we have trusted security. God is always there and He never sleeps. God does not ask for money, He only asks for obedience. Are you secure in His protection?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Ezekiel 35:1-36:38 James 1:1-18
Psalm 116:1-19 Proverbs 27:23-27

THEME: Team Support

Nov 18

VERSE: For the sake of my brethren and companions, I will now say, "Peace be within you."

Psalm 122:8

GOD THOUGHTS:

For an athlete being part of a team brings an extra benefit. Those who cheer for others on that team are cheering for them as well. Those who like the team like them too. The cheering they hear for the team encourages them because they are part of the team. As a Christian you are part of a team as well. When our brothers in Christ are doing well it should encourage us too. We should encourage our other team members knowing that at times we will need some encouragement as well. Are you encouraging other Christians?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Ezekiel 37:1-38:23 James 1:19-2:17
Psalm 117:1-2 Proverbs 28:1

THEME: Home

Nov 19

VERSE: I was glad when they said to me, Let us go into the house of the Lord. **Psalms 122:1**

GOD THOUGHTS:

If you want to put a smile on an athlete's face tell him he is headed home. It is an interesting phenomenon. Players perform better and their teams win more at home than on the road. Even a tired athlete is happy to be headed home. It is truly something to look forward to. A Christian should also be looking forward to going home. Home is a place of great joy and all of life's struggles will be over. For a Christian there is truly no place like home. Are you looking forward to going home?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Ezekiel 39:1-40:27 James 2:18-3:18
Psalm 118:1-18 Proverbs 28:2

THEME: Direction

Nov 20

VERSE: Behold as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, ..., So our eyes look to the Lord our God. **Psalms 123:2**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Few things upset coaches faster than players complaining. When a person complains they are focusing everything on themselves and not thinking about the other players or the fact that the job of the coach is to help them win. They must trust the coach to do what is best for the team. When it comes to our relationship with God the same is true. God is more interested in our character than our comfort. When we complain we are saying that God is not doing what is best for us. We need to trust Him. Are you complaining about something in your life?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Ezekiel 40:28-41:26 James 4:1-17
Psalm 118:19-29 Proverbs 28:3-5

THEME: Most Valuable Player

Nov 21

VERSE: If it had not been the Lord who was on our side, **Psalms 124:1**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Every athlete wants to have a player on his team that you can count on when the going gets tough. This is the guy that you call the most valuable player. The one that without Him you don't stand a chance. You take courage just from his presence. For the Christian the Most Valuable Player is Jesus. He is always there. You can count on Him when the going gets tough. He always knows what to do. With Him on your side you are never defeated. Who are you putting your trust in?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Ezekiel 42:1-43:27 James 5:1-20
Psalm 119:1-16 Proverbs 28:6-7

THEME: Reliable

Nov 22

VERSE: Those who trust in the Lord Are like Mount Zion, Which cannot be moved, but abides forever. **Psalms 125:1**

GOD THOUGHTS:

For an athlete one thing that brings confidence is finding things that are reliable. Having a reliable coach who is consistent in all areas helps an athlete know what to expect. Reliable referees who call the sport consistently. Also having teammates you can count on bring the level of confidence to a higher level. For the follower of Christ knowing that we can rely on God gives us confidence to face all the trials of life. This confidence translates into hope. Are you relying on God to face the trials of life?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Ezekiel 44:1-45:12 1 Peter 1:1-12
Psalm 119:17-32 Proverbs 28:8-10

THEME: Relaxed

Nov 23

VERSE: Our soul has escaped as a bird from the snare of the folwers; **Psalm 124:7**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Any athlete can be so bound up with their emotions that it hinders their performance. Feelings of fear in particular can bring about failure. These emotions can become a heavy burden that is difficult to bear and hard to get rid of. For the Christian there is the same struggle with your emotions. Feelings of fear and failure can bring you down. However for the Christian the assurance of acceptance by God can set us free from these fears. Are you relaxed and free from your fears?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Ezekiel 45:13-46:24 1 Peter 1:13-2:10
Psalm 119:33-48 Proverbs 28:11

THEME: Dreams

Nov 24

VERSE: When the Lord brought back the captivity of Zion, We were like those who dream.

Psalm 126:1

GOD THOUGHTS:

Every athlete has dreams and aspirations. Some are as simple as making a team, winning the game, and even as great as winning a championship. These dreams are the motivation that fuels the daily practices. A Christian also has dreams and aspirations. These can be simple or great. These dreams are the fuel for daily living that help to overcome the mundane. The advantage that Christians have is that even after the apparent loss of a dream God can restore them. What are your dreams?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Ezekiel 47:1-48:35 1 Peter 2:11-3:7
Psalm 119:49-64 Proverbs 28:12-13

THEME: Celebration

Nov 25

VERSE: Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
And our tongue with singing. Then they said
among the nations, "The Lord has done great things
for them." **Psalms 126:2**

GOD THOUGHTS:

All athletes enjoy celebration. Whether it is a great play, winning a game or a championship, celebrations are a big part of sports. Those moments of celebration can make you forget days and years of practice and difficulties. Athletes love these moments and consider them an important part of the game. Christians also enjoy celebrations. Celebrating souls being saved and lives being changed are wonderful times. Struggles can be forgotten when you celebrate the victory. Celebration is an important part of a Christian's life. What are you celebrating?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Daniel 1:1-2:23 1 Peter 3:8-4:6
Psalms 119:65-80 Proverbs 28:14

THEME: Rewards*Nov 26***VERSE:** Those who sow in tears Shall reap in joy.
Psalms 126:5**GOD THOUGHTS:**

Athletes know the reality of pain. They know about sweat, aches, and injuries. They know a lot about suffering that you never hear them discuss. Instead they talk about their successes and wins. They know that their joy of winning is the reward and it helps them to forget the pain. As a follower of Christ this is so true. All of the challenges and pain of this life are nothing compared to the joy that we will one day share. We have something to look forward to. Though we know about pain we should also know about rewards. Are you talking about your rewards?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Daniel 2:24-3:30 1 Peter 4:7-5:14
Psalm 119:81-96 Proverbs 28:15-16

THEME: Giving Credit

Nov 27

VERSE: The Lord has done great things for us, And we are glad. **Psalms 126:3**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Athletes are very good at giving credit to whom it is due. Whether it is a teammate or an opposing player athletes are very quick to praise another. It is usually very obvious who deserves the credit and this recognizes a great performance and we all enjoy recognition. For a Christian we also should be good at giving credit. We always should be giving credit to God. He deserves it. We also will have opportunities to praise each other. This produces thankfulness. Who are you giving credit to in your life?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Daniel 4:1-37 2 Peter 1:1-21
Psalm 119:97-112 Proverbs 28:17-18

THEME: Not in Vain

Nov 28

VERSE: Unless the Lord builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; **Psalms 127:1****GOD THOUGHTS:**

For an athlete you can give your best effort but if your coach doesn't give you a good game plan you will lose. Hard work alone does not win championships. The ones that work hard and have a good plan to follow are the ones who enjoy the satisfaction of winning. For a Christian that means that we should be following the plan of God if we want to see something good happen. No matter how hard we work following our own plans is in vain. It will never accomplish what we want it to. Who's plans are you following?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Daniel 5:1-31 2 Peter 2:1-22
Psalm 119:113-128 Proverbs 28:19-20

THEME: Peaceful

VERSE: When you eat the labor of your hands,
You shall be happy, and it shall be well with you.

Psalm 128:2**GOD THOUGHTS:**

One goal of an athlete is to enjoy a peaceful life. When he has done well he wants to go and spend relaxing time with his family and friends. This time refreshes him to be able to go and compete well. People who don't live a peaceful life will eventually not perform as well. A Christian longs to live a peaceful life as well. When he is living in obedience to God he enjoys the benefits of that lifestyle. This peacefulness gives you time to recharge your emotional batteries to withstand the challenges of life. Are you living a peaceful life?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Daniel 6:1-28 2 Peter 3:1-18
Psalm 119:129-152 Proverbs 28:21-22

THEME: Knocked Down

Nov 30

VERSE: Many a time they have afflicted me from my youth; Yet they have not prevailed against me.

Psalms 129:2

GOD THOUGHTS:

A certainty for every athlete is that of a challenging experience. These can happen every game or sometimes multiple times in one game. How you respond to them ultimately determines your outcome. To do nothing guarantees defeat. To get back up and compete harder gives you opportunity for victory. Christians many times will face difficulties. How we respond to them affects our outcomes. We should never allow ourselves to be defeated. When you are knocked down, do you get up to fight again?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Daniel 7:1-28 1 John 1:1-10
Psalm 119:153-176 Proverbs 28:23-24

THEME: Reward of Obedience

Dec 1

VERSE: Behold, thus shall the man be blessed
Who fears the Lord. **Psalms 128:4**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Athletes know that actions have consequences. Their actions are judged and they are either rewarded or punished by coaches, referees, other players, and even fans. They much prefer reward over punishment. There is no mystery to reward. Obedience brings reward and disobedience brings punishment. The Christian life is an exact parallel. We all prefer reward over punishment. The result is linked to obedience. We all choose either reward or punishment when we choose either obedience or disobedience. Are you choosing to be rewarded for your obedience?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Daniel 8:1-27 1 John 2:1-17
Psalm 120:1-7 Proverbs 28:25-26

THEME: Help!

Dec 2

VERSE: Out of the depths I have cried to You, O Lord; **Psalms 130:1****GOD THOUGHTS:**

Athletes are taught very early the importance of communication. If they are tired or hurting they need to let the coach know. If the other team has an advantage they are to let the other players know. This communication leads to the player getting the help he needs. Without the communication you are on your own. A Christian knows the benefits of sharing our needs and struggles with God. We also should share them with each other. God will provide all the help we need if we will just ask. Have you asked God for help lately?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Daniel 9:1-11:1 1 John 2:18-3:6
Psalm 121:1-8 Proverbs 28:27-28

THEME: Restoration*Dec 3*

VERSE: But there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared. **Psalms 130:4**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Athletes are not perfect. Try as they might at some point they will let their coach and teammates down. How the athlete handles his imperfections is the key to the results. If he fails to acknowledge his faults it will lead to problems. Those who admit their wrongs are restored. This is a perfect mirror of the Christian walk. All make mistakes. Those who admit their faults and ask for forgiveness are restored. All others stand on the wrong side of the law. Have you asked for forgiveness?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Daniel 11:2-35 1 John 3:7-24
Psalms 122:1-9 Proverbs 29:1

THEME: Waiting

Dec 4

VERSE: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, And in His word I do hope. **Psalms 130:5**

GOD THOUGHTS:

An aspect of athletics that is often overlooked is waiting. Some plays only work if you wait until the right moment. Hurry them and they fail. Knowing this and believing the play will work athletes wait for the right moment. Then after waiting they get the joy of seeing it work. For a Christian waiting is important as well. We must wait and trust that God will bring things to pass in His timing. Then when God brings them to pass we get the joy of celebrating. What are you waiting for?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Daniel 11:36-12:13 1 John 4:1-21
Psalm 123:1-4 Proverbs 29:2-4

THEME: Reliance*Dec 5*

VERSE: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, And in His word I do hope. **Psalms 130:5**

GOD THOUGHTS:

No athlete can make every play so there are times he must stand and wait and rely on someone else to make the play. This reliance and dependence on one another is the essence of team work. Without the ability to rely on each other the team breaks down into individuals. As followers of Christ we have to learn reliance as well. The great thing about this is that God is dependable. He always does what He promises. The challenge is to learn to rely on Him instead of on ourselves. Are you relying on God?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Hosea 1:1-3:5 1 John 5:1-21
Psalm 124:1-8 Proverbs 29:5-8

THEME: Keep it Simple

Dec 6

VERSE: Neither do I concern myself with great matters, Nor things too profound for me.**Psalm 131:1****GOD THOUGHTS:**

An athlete who tries to focus on all of the other players responsibilities can often be so focused on theirs that they fail to take care of their own. Many times the philosophy is to keep things simple. This ensures understanding and keeps people from over thinking. A Christian likewise must not try to concern himself with everyone else's responsibilities. That is God's job. He needs to focus on his own obedience. God has made it clear what He asks us to do. Are you focused on what God is saying to you?

MY THOUGHTS:**READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Hosea 4:1-5:15 2 John 1:1-13
Psalm 125:1-5 Proverbs 29:9-11

THEME: At Peace*Dec 7***VERSE:** Surely I have calmed and quieted my soul, **Psalms 131:2****GOD THOUGHTS:**

As an athlete approaches a game it is important that his emotions are at peace. Excitement and anticipation are positive emotions and help to improve performance. Worry, fear, and dread are negative emotions and usually lead to poor performance. This mirrors the Christian walk. When our lives are filled with worry, fear, and dread we tend to make poor choices and withdraw from challenges. When we put our trust in the Lord and are walking at peace then our lives reflect His greatness. Are you living at peace?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Hosea 6:1-9:17 3 John 1:1-14
Psalm 126:1-6 Proverbs 29:12-14

THEME: Dedication

Dec 8

VERSE: I will not give sleep to my eyes Or slumber to my eyelids, until I find a place for the Lord. **Psalm 132:3,5**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Successful athletes live a life of dedication. They are no stranger to saying no to food and sleep in order to say yes to working out and pushing their bodies to the limits. This dedication helps them to make the most of the talents and abilities they were blessed with at birth. A follower of Christ could learn much from their example. By saying no to things of the flesh and yes to things of the Spirit we begin to develop the gifts and abilities the Lord blessed us with. Then we can become what He planned all along. Does your life reflect dedication to God?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Hosea 10:1-14:9 Jude 1:1-25
Psalm 127:1-5 Proverbs 29:15-17

THEME: Stability*Dec 9***VERSE:** O Israel, hope in the Lord From this time forth and forever. **Psalms 131:3****GOD THOUGHTS:**

All teams tend to form distinct personalities with the athletes filling different roles. One thing that makes a team strong is stability. Having a person that you can count on every time to go out and give their all makes the team stronger. Without this a team will struggle. As a follower of Christ, He is the one that we can count on every time to do what He said He will do. He always keeps His word. Knowing this we take courage to face life's challenges without fear. Are you finding your stability in God?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Joel 1:1-3:21 Revelation 1:1-20
Psalm 128:1-6 Proverbs 29:18

THEME: Favor*Dec 10*

VERSE: For Your servant David's sake, Do not turn away the face of Your anointed. **Psalms 132:10**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Athletes understand the importance of favor. Whether it be favor with the coach, other players, or even the referees it is important to them. Favor allows them opportunities that they never would have enjoyed otherwise. They never want to lose the favor they have. As a Christian we have favor with the God of the universe. Not that we command Him but that we are given opportunities that we would never have had. Knowing His favor helps us to value keeping it. Are you living in God's favor?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Amos 1:1-3:15 Revelation 2:1-17
Psalm 129:1-8 Proverbs 29:19-20

THEME: Rewards

Dec 11

VERSE: If your sons will keep My covenant And My testimony which I shall teach them, Their sons also shall sit upon your throne forevermore.

Psalm 132:12

GOD THOUGHTS:

A wise athlete knows the benefits of keeping the team's rules. The rewards of this are favor and usually increased playing time. By not following the team's rules you incur a different type of reward. Despite their talent players are kept on the bench and sometimes kicked off of teams because of failing to live by the rules. Their are rewards for being a follower of Christ. Their are also consequences for not following Him even though we can't get kicked off of His team. Is you life earning good rewards or bad rewards?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Amos 4:1-6:14 Revelation 2:18-3:6
Psalm 130:1-8 Proverbs 29:21-22

THEME: Unity

Dec 12

VERSE: Behold, how good and how pleasant it is
For brethren to dwell together in unity!

Psalm 133:1

GOD THOUGHTS:

A necessary ingredient of an successful team is unity. Unity does not mean that everyone looks alike or does the same thing. It means that they each are taking their own unique abilities and talents and putting them together for a common vision and purpose. This ingredient is also important among Christians. God created us different with the wisdom of knowing that when we work together in unity powerful things will happen. Unity happens when we all work together for His vision and purpose. Are you living a life of unity?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Amos 7:1-9:15 Revelation 3:7-22
Psalm 131:1-3 Proverbs 29:23

THEME: Chosen!*Dec 13*

VERSE: For the Lord has chosen Zion, He has desired it for His dwelling place: **Psalms 132:13**

GOD THOUGHTS:

An athlete knows the power of being chosen. More players want to be on the team than are allowed. If you feel wonderful to be chosen for the team. To not be chosen is a lonely feeling. The feelings of rejection are powerful and often difficult to overcome. The athlete longs for the moment when he is chosen. The Christian understands this moment as well. If you are a Christian you have been chosen! You have been picked to be a part of the winning team for all eternity. How has knowing you are chosen changed your life?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Obadiah 1:1-21 Revelation 4:1-11
Psalms 132:1-18 Proverbs 29:24-25

THEME: The Extra Effort

Dec 14

VERSE: Behold, bless the Lord, All you servants of the Lord, Who by night stand in the house of the Lord! **Psalms 134:1**

GOD THOUGHTS:

For an athlete it is normal to give extra effort. They know they can't make themselves taller, smarter, or extraordinarily gifted. What they can do is work hard in order to get the most out of the talent they do have. By giving extra effort they can sometimes outplay athletes who have more ability but don't put out as much effort. A Christian should live the same way. We can't do anything about the abilities we don't have. We are responsible to use the gifts that we do have. By giving more effort we please the one who gave us the gifts. Are you giving extra effort to following Christ?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Jonah 1:1-4-11 Revelation 5:1-14
Psalm 133:1-3 Proverbs 29:26-27

THEME: Standing Ovation

Dec 15

VERSE: Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good; Sing praises to His name, for it is pleasant. **Psalm 135:3**

GOD THOUGHTS:

A special moment during any game is marked by the fans standing up and cheering. These moments are usually the highlights of the game. The moments of cheering motivates athletes to give more and play harder. While God cannot give more than He already has or work any harder He is blessed by our praises. He is always worthy of our standing and cheering. He has done so much for us. He deserves more appause than we can give in one lifetime. Are you giving God praise?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Micah 1:1-4:13 Revelation 6:1-17
Psalm 134:1-3 Proverbs 30:1-4

THEME: Accountable*Dec 16*

VERSE: For the Lord will judge His people, And He will have compassion on His servants.

Psalms 135:14**GOD THOUGHTS:**

Athletes learn quickly that they are accountable to their coaches. At some point in a game the coach yells at them for not doing something right. And even more severe is when you are called to his office to discuss something you have done. This is not usually a pleasant experience. In a similar way we are all accountable to God. He never yells at us but we have often grieved His heart. We may not have to go the office but we will all stand before Him one day. How well this does depends on what we do now. Are you living life to please Him?

MY THOUGHTS:**READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Micah 5:1-7:20 Revelation 7:1-17
Psalm 135:1-21 Proverbs 30:5-6

THEME: Not Equal*Dec 17*

VERSE: For I know that the Lord is great, And our Lord is above all gods. **Psalm 135:5**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Athletes know but don't often talk about that they all have different levels of skills and abilities. Some are just better at doing certain things. This level of ability also translates into those with more receiving more attention and praise than those with less. As Christians we know that whatever abilities we have are given by God and He deserves any and all credit for them. We can work hard but we will never be equal with Him. We should gladly give Him the praise/credit because without Him we would be in trouble. Are you giving God all the credit?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Nahum 1:1-3:19 Revelation 8:1-13
Psalm 136:1-26 Proverbs 30:7-9

THEME: Trustworthy?*Dec 18*

VERSE: They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see; **Psalm 135:16**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Athletes are cautious by nature. They know if you put confidence in the wrong person they will let you down when moment gets tough. Many times trust is earned in practice. What they have learned in practice they perform in the game. A Christian should likewise be careful about who they put their trust in. God is always trustworthy. The more we follow Him the more trustworthy we should become. We don't want to be the one to let others down. Are you becoming trustworthy like our Lord?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Habakkuk 1:1-3:19 Revelation 9:1-21
Psalm 137:1-9 Proverbs 30:10

THEME: Respect and Praise*Dec 19***VERSE:** You who fear the Lord, bless the Lord!**Psalm 135:20****GOD THOUGHTS:**

In the athletic world you praise those whom you respect. Respect and criticism do not belong together. It is easy to see respect when you hear how one athlete speaks of another. Our words reveal the attitudes of our hearts. In the Christian realm one should expect to hear praise for the Lord. Many times there are those who lack respect for the Lord and therefore question Him instead of praising Him. One thing is sure if you respect the Lord you will praise Him. Is your mouth full of praise for Him?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Zephaniah 1:1-3:20 Revelation 10:1-11
Psalm 138:1-8 Proverbs 30:11-14

THEME: A Great Game Plan

Dec 20

VERSE: To Him who laid out the earth above the waters, **Psalms 136:6**

GOD THOUGHTS:

An athlete enjoys nothing more than watching a great game plan unfold and watching things come together. He admires the coach's wisdom in putting it together but also knows that the players doing their part is important. As Christians we know that God has a great plan and that it will lead to victory. What we don't often stop and think about is that plan includes us completing our assigned tasks. We play a role in God fulfilling His plan or we are in His way. Are you filling your role?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Haggai 1:1-2:23 Revelation 11:1-19
Psalm 139:1-24 Proverbs 30:15-16

THEME: Deserving Praise

Dec 21

VERSE: Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!
Psalms 136:1

GOD THOUGHTS:

It just seems natural when we see certain athletes perform that we applaud and shout our appreciation for their efforts. It would be harder to sit still than it is to cheer them on. In our hearts and minds they have earned this praise. In a similar manner we should applaud and shout our appreciation for our God. He has done so much for us and continues to overlook our failures and pour His goodness in our lives. It should be easier to praise Him than to sit still. Do you find yourself praising Him?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Zechariah 1:1-21 Revelation 12:1-17
Psalm 140:1-13 Proverbs 30:17

THEME: Power of Belief*Dec 22***VERSE:** Who remembered us in our lowly state,
Psalm 136:23**GOD THOUGHTS:**

Athletes don't start out with a dazzling array of moves and sharp skills that amaze us. Sometime, somewhere somebody took the time to teach and encourage them to develop the talent that maybe no one else had seen. What we admire is the finished product. just like that beginning athlete God knew what He had put in us and what we could become if we would let Him teach us. God believes in what He can make you if you will let Him. He knows what you can become. Are you letting God make you into more than others believe you can be?

*MY THOUGHTS:***READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Zechariah 2:1-3:10 Revel. 13:1-13:18
Psalm 141:1-10 Proverbs 30:18-20

THEME: Agony of Defeat

Dec 23

VERSE: There we sat down, yea we wept When we remembered Zion. **Psalms 137:1**

GOD THOUGHTS:

One thing every athlete experiences at some point is the agony of defeat. There may even be tears. Defeat can be crushing. Some people face defeat and come away with resolve to continue to fight for victory. Often the greatest victories come after the bitterest defeats. Even as followers of Christ we sometimes taste defeat. It can either make us bitter or better. We need to rise with steely resolve to face the challenges ahead of us. One day we will taste the sweet taste of victory. What happens in your life when you face defeat?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Zechariah 4:1-5:11 Revelation 14:1-20
Psalms 142:1-7 Proverbs 30:21-23

THEME: A New Day

Dec 24

VERSE: For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. **Luke 2:11**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Fans often long for a new day for their team. They have often heard promises of a new day. What they want to see is the reality of that day unfold on the field before their eyes. They want to celebrate. There was a time in history when God's people had heard of a new day when things would be different. They longed to see and celebrate that day. When it was time God announced it to people. And they came and celebrated the birth of a King. Are you celebrating Jesus' birth?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Zechariah 6:1-7:14 Revelation 15:1-8
Psalm 143:1-12 Proverbs 30:24-28

THEME: Savior

Dec 25

VERSE: For my eyes have seen Your salvation
Luke 2:30

GOD THOUGHTS:

Sometimes athletes are called the Savior of a team. Many times this is before they have done anything. The expectation is that they will deliver the team from mediocrity and make them winners. Needless to say it doesn't always work out. But one time it did. He was called Savior before He did anything. He came to deliver us from our sins and set us free. It has worked out wonderfully for those who will accept Him. Is He your Savior?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Zechariah 8:1-23 Revelation 16:1-21
Psalm 144:1-15 Proverbs 30:29-31

THEME: Well Rounded Development*Dec 26*

VERSE: And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. **Luke 2:52**

GOD THOUGHTS:

A good athlete works at more than just developing his physical skills. The ability to relate to others is key in playing team sports. Character is an important key to maintaining any success our physical abilities can give us. This is true for Christians as well. We need to develop more than just our spiritual gifts. We need to develop our walk with God, our faith, our giving, as well as our Character. We should be maintaining our physical bodies as well. Are you working on your character as well as your gifts?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Zechariah 9:1-17 Revelation 17:1-18
Psalm 145:1-21 Proverbs 30:32

THEME: Listening

Dec 27

VERSE: Make haste to me! Give ear to my voice when I cry out to You. **Psalm 141:1**

GOD THOUGHTS:

A good athlete knows the importance of listening. In meetings the coach only says something once and expects you to do that in a game situation. One key to listening is knowing that it is a one time opportunity and focusing on the speaker. The same is true in our walk with God. When He speaks we should be listening. Then we should do what He asks us to. He sets the example in that He listens to us when we pray. We should focus on Him knowing that this is a one time opportunity. Are you listening when God speaks to you?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Zechariah 10:1-11:17 Revelation 18:1-24
Psalm 146:1-10 Proverbs 30:33

THEME: Discipline

Dec 28

VERSE: Let the righteous strike me; It shall be a kindness. **Psalms 141:5**

GOD THOUGHTS:

All athletes at some point face discipline from their coach. Whether it was for not working hard in practice or breaking a rule, discipline is sure to come. How they respond to it makes all the difference. Knowing the coach wants them to be their best they should accept it as a gift from a friend. Christians struggle with the same issues. God's discipline is always for our benefit. When God disciplines you do you accept as a gift for your long term benefit or do you resent the pain it brings?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Zechariah 12:1-13:9 Revelation 19:1-21
Psalms 147:1-20 Proverbs 31:1-7

THEME: Boundaries

Dec 29

VERSE: Do not incline my heart to any evil thing,
To practice wicked works **Psalms 141:4**

GOD THOUGHTS:

Athletes know that there are things that they shouldn't do. Things that will impact their lives and play in a negative way. But they still have to choose not to do what they shouldn't do. Many athletes have destroyed their lives and careers by doing things they knew not to do. For the Christian the situation is the same. We need to put boundaries around our lives and stay away from the things we know not to do. The choice is up to us. Are you choosing to stay away from things that will destroy your life?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Zechariah 14:1-21 Revelation 20:1-15
Psalm 148:1-14 Proverbs 31:8-9

THEME: Gratefulness

Dec 30

VERSE: Blessed be the Lord my Rock, Who trains my hands for war, And my fingers for battle,
Psalms 144:1

GOD THOUGHTS:

The job of a coach is to help the player be all that he can be which will in turn help his team win. To do this he pushes, prods, sometimes yells, and demands more than the player often thinks he has. All this to benefit the player. A wise player responds with gratefulness to this difficult training. God is even more committed to helping us be all that He created us to be. He will ask, and teach a person to do more than he thinks he can do. He does all of this so that we won't look back on our lives with regret. Are you responding to his training with gratefulness?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Malachi 1:1-2:17 Revelation 21:1-27
Psalms 149:1-9 Proverbs 31:10-24

THEME: A New Thing

VERSE: Behold, I will do a new thing,
Isaiah 43:19

GOD THOUGHTS:

Athletes know that with a new season some things will be different. They have to learn to adapt to the new things because the old things are no longer being used. Anticipating and even looking forward to these new things help the athlete to learn quickly and perform better. For the Christian a new year is a time to prepare themselves with anticipation for the changes that are sure to come. Resisting the changes will only keep us stuck in the past doing what hasn't worked. Are you asking God about the changes for this new year so that you can change with Him?

MY THOUGHTS:

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Malachi 3:1-4:6 Revelation 22:1-21
 Psalm 150:1-6 Proverbs 31:25-31