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THE WINNING TEAM

As a young girl that had two older brothers, I was very competitive in sports. I played hardball along with the “boys,” and I could run as fast as any of them. I could throw a ball just as far as any boy did. At school I loved to play marbles and one boy that had some “beauties” was also my opponent. I had a sack of marbles like no one else. I wanted to be on the “winning team.”

This competitive spirit carried over in many areas until I realized that I did not have to always be the winner. When I had children and we played some table games, I often would let them win just to make them feel good. They probably didn’t know that, but I wanted them to enjoy the pleasure of “winning.”

Winning is good if you are on the right team. It isn’t about the person that has the “most marbles” or the most “blue ribbons.” It is the person that makes the choice to run the race for the Lord and endure to the finish line.

Paul, being a Roman citizen understood about sports, and often used analogies to teach his converts to Christianity. He told them to “press in.” This means that you give it your all, until you cross the finish line. Then you receive the reward for being faithful from Jesus.

We are in a race with a real opponent my friends. That opponent does not play fair. He will try to trip you up and make you “fall.” He doesn’t want you to win. At the same time, the Lord is on your side, praying for you to make it all the way. He told Peter that Satan wanted to sift him but that he was praying for him. He prays for us too.

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