



2023 RACE SEASON DEVOTIONS

"Lord, be with us and help us to follow you, down every straight-away and in every turn, on the racetrack and off the track in life." Isaiah 41:10
"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."



Revisit the weekly race day devotions, thoughts and prayers from the 2023 season with space for reflections and prayers.

Chaplain Tim Garrison
www.tgmmgroup.com

May 12, 2023

Today and Tomorrow (Friday and Saturday) is our opening weekend at Stafford Speedway for the 2023 season.

Today's race day Bible verse: "The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe." - Proverbs 18:10

Today's race day prayer: "Lord, as we start another season at Stafford, thank you for all that you provide. Thank you that we can have a personal relationship with you, Jesus our Lord. Thank you for a great place to race and for all those that work so hard to provide a top-notch facility. Lord, I ask for your protection for each driver, for each crew member, for all of the staff, workers and officials at Stafford as well as for all of our first responders on site. Lord, please protect us in your wonderful care this weekend and throughout the 2023 season. Lord, I ask for your protection, your peace and your presence for each of the drivers, down every straight away and in every turn on the track and off the track in life this year. In Jesus' name, Amen!"

If you are a driver and/or team or anyone on site this weekend, and I do not get a chance to pray with you, feel free to personalize the prayer above throughout the weekend or grab me whenever you see me!

Be blessed all, see you at the track!

Reflections:

Prayers:

May 19, 2023

“Sparrows”

Race Day Verse: "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows." - Matthew 10:29-31

Race Day Prayer: "Lord, thank you that You see us. Thank you that you love and care for us and that we are not hidden from you. Help us to always remember that we do not fall to the ground and wind up outside of your care. Thank you for this promise, Lord!

Lord, again this week, I ask You for your protection, Your peace and Your presence for each of the drivers, down every straight away and in every turn on the track and off the track in life. In Jesus' name, Amen!"

Just like the two sparrows, God sees us, He promises to care for us, and He encourages us not to fear! We have worth and God sees it! Amen!

As always, if you are in the pits today, and I do not get a chance to pray with you, feel free to personalize the prayer above or grab me whenever you see me!

Be blessed all, see you at the track!

Reflections:

Prayers:

May 25, 2023

"Who Gets The Prize?"

For this week, back in May, we had something a little different by way of a one-minute Facebook video! The verses and content have been provided below.

This week's Race Day Scripture: 1 Corinthians 9:24 "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize."

Be Fast! Run this week's races to get the win and the trophy!!! Also, run the race of life to win! Run to the Lord, trust in Him, and seek a relationship with Him every day, on and off the track!

Race day prayer: "Heavenly Father, thank you for your mercies that are new every day. Thank you, Father God, that You are available and that You desire to hear our prayers, any time of the day or night. Lord, we ask for your protection, your peace and your presence in and out of the race car this week. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen!"

As always, feel free to flag me down at the track if you'd like to chat, need prayer or just want to say hello!

Reflections:

Prayers:

June 2, 2023

Raceday Verse: "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." - Galatians 6:2

At the racetrack I often hear of one team helping another. One team needed another transmission, another provided. One team didn't have money for tires, another provided. In a real tangible way, we are sharing and carrying the burdens of others in these actions. We see this principle in the Bible in Galatians 6:2. When we carry other's burdens, we are obeying Christ's law, and that's a good thing!

Raceday Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you for carrying our burdens when we come to you and ask. Help us to want to carry the burdens of others and help us to see the joy in those actions. Lord, we pray for safety on and off the race track today, we pray for your peace, your presence and your protection for everyone at the track today. We pray for those who are struggling and need comfort today. We pray these things, in every straight-away and in every turn, on and off the track and in life. In Jesus' name, Amen!

Have a great race day everyone...

Reflections:

Prayers:

June 6, 2023

Raceday Verse: "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things." Philippians 4:8 (NIV)

This verse got me thinking. We don't normally think we can win, if we know our car is not "right", if the fuel isn't "pure" and if there are known issues with the car, it probably isn't expected to perform well or even win the race. You wouldn't water down the race fuel to help it go further; it doesn't work that way. We need a good car and pure race fuel in the car for performance. (Plus, who at the track, on a Friday night, doesn't love the smell of race fuel....) The same is true in our lives. Jesus shows us a right, pure, lovely, admirable, noble and excellent way to live. That way is by trusting in Him. Reading the Bible helps us to be reminded of how good God is and how to live that good life!

Raceday Prayer: I pray that we all have a great Friday on and off the track, and "Lord, may your peace, presence and protection be with us all on and off the track tonight and in life, through all of the straight-aways and in every turn, Amen."

Have a great day and I'll see you tonight at the track! Flag me down if you'd like to chat.

Reflections:

Prayers:

June 16, 2023

Raceday Verse: Psalm 5:1-3 " Give ear to my words, O LORD, Consider my groaning. Heed the sound of my cry for help, my King and my God. For to You I pray. In the morning, O LORD, You will hear my voice; In the morning I will order my prayer to You and eagerly watch."

As I think about today being "Race Day" for many of us, these verses in Psalm 5 seem to apply for the race day routine as well as for anyone. In these verses, there is an ask for God to hear the words of the prayer, a request for help, an acknowledgement that it is God who hears and answers the prayer, the timing of the prayer which begins in the morning, the first order of business for the day and finally the expectation and watching for how God will answer. Just as preparations for the race begin well before race day, our preparations for things in life and plans for the day can be started well in advance by beginning in prayer.

Raceday Prayer: So.... "Lord, I pray this morning, just like we read in the verses of Psalm 5, I ask for Your care, Your protection, Your peace, Your wisdom and Your presence for all of us at the racetrack today and this weekend. We pray now, in the morning, as well as when we are at the track. Lord, thank you for Your mercy and grace on us and our lives and thank you that we can have a relationship with you, our Lord, Jesus Christ, simply by asking and coming to you in prayer and accepting your forgiveness of our sins. Be with us today and this evening, hear our prayers O LORD for the coming race day and what we face in life, In Your name, Lord Jesus, Amen!

Remember, God is with us "In every straight away and in every corner of life, on and off the track."

Reflections:

Prayers:

June 23, 2023

Raceday Verse: Philippians 3:13-14 - "Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

In racing we probably do not dwell or at least we shouldn't dwell on that race last week, or two weeks ago, when things didn't quite go the way, we expected. Nobody says, "we finished last, or we didn't finish the race, let's try to do that again."

Instead, we put it behind us, and we press on and strive to do better for the next race with the ultimate goal of winning the race.

The same can be said for our lives, and a life when our faith is in Jesus. We do not need to dwell on our mistakes and sins of the past if we've confessed them to the Lord and are trusting Him for our future. We are forgetting about the past, pressing on toward heavenly and Godly things and we're striving finish the race God has set before us well.

Raceday Prayer: "Lord we pray for our racing today. On the track and in the race of life, protect us, guide us, let us experience your peace and protection in every straight away and in every corner of the race, on and off the track. In Jesus' name, Amen!"

Reflections:

Prayers:

June 30, 2023
"Exhausted"

Are you exhausted? As we look to July, we've been racing for a few months now. If you're like me, you may be thinking, "I am wiped out, I need a break." We have day jobs, we work on the cars after work, we race on weekends and then we start the cycle all over again. What is one to do when burnout sets in?

We often hear that the race community is like family. What does a family do for burnout? We can be there for each other, help each other and lend a hand when needed. The same is true for supporting each other through prayer. The Bible also has encouragement and promises from God, for our burnout and exhaustion.

Raceday Verses: "I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint" – Jeremiah 31:25

"You, God are awesome in your sanctuary; the God of Israel gives power and strength to His people." - Psalm 68:35

"Look to the Lord and His strength; seek His face always." – 1 Chronicles 16:11

"I lift my eyes to the mountains, where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." – Psalm 121:1-2
Prayer –

Raceday Prayer: "Lord as we continue with our race season, we seek Your face. Please strengthen and sustain us and give us strength during the summer races. Thank you, Lord, that through Your Word, You promise to satisfy when we are faint, give strength when we are weak and be our help in time of need. Lord, we pray this week for strength, energy, safety, Your protection, and Your care in every straight-away and through every corner on the track and in life. In Jesus' Name, Amen!"

Have a great race weekend all!!!

Reflections:

Prayers:

July 7, 2023
"Time Off"

Last week our Race Day topic was "Exhaustion." Unfortunately, sometimes Exhaustion leads to a necessary period of "Time Off."

Maybe you cannot take time off because you are in a points race, have sponsor commitments, or for other reasons, you need to keep pressing forward.

Thankfully God does not get exhausted, and He doesn't take time off from His love for us and for wanting to have a relationship with us. He is present and wants us to turn to Him for rest and recovery!

Raceday Verses: "And he said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest." – Exodus 33:14

"I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the Lord sustained me." – Psalm 3:5

Raceday Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you for sustaining us, for Your rest, Your peace, Your forgiveness and Your love, that is available from You, simply by asking. Lord, we ask for your protection on all the drivers, teams, officials, staff and everyone involved in this week's races. Thank you for being there for us down every straightaway and in every corner on the track and in life. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen!"
See you soon!

Reflections:

Prayers:

July 13 and July 14, 2023
“The Power of A Second Chance”

At the racetrack, when we encounter problems with the car, or when we wreck in practice or a heat race, we work hard to fix the car and make it right for the race. If we make the race, that’s our second chance. But there is a lot of hard work to get that second chance, isn’t there? In life, the good news is that the hard work of a second chance has already been done by Jesus and He offers us a new start in life and forgiveness of our sins, simply by coming to Him and asking.

Raceday Verses: 1 John 2:1 “My little children, I am writing you these things so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ the Righteous One.”

2 Peter 3:9 “The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”

A quick scan of some people in the Bible shows us that God offers second chances. Read the stories of Jonah and Samson in the Old Testament; or the story of the man on the cross next to Jesus at the crucifixion in the New Testament, all second chance moments.

It is in God’s nature and character to offer second chances then and to us now! You’re second chance may just be a prayer away, will you accept His offer of the second chance at faith, salvation, and His love for you?

Thanks everyone for reading these Race Day posts each week.

Raceday Prayer: I pray “for the Lord to protect you, watch over you and give you His peace and comfort down every straight away and in every corner on the racetrack and in life. In Jesus’ name, Amen!”

Take care all, see you soon!

(Thank you to **Justin Herod** for the song “The Power of a Second Chance” which was the inspiration for this week’s post!)

Reflections:

Prayers:

July 20 and 21, 2023:

Raceday Verse: Psalm 3:3 - "But You, O Lord, are a shield about me, My glory, and the One who lifts my head."

Raceday Prayer: "Lord, thank you for being our shield and the one who cares for us. Please protect us as we race this week and as we live out each day in our daily lives. Lord, we ask for your protection, your peace and your countenance for each of us today, in Jesus' name we pray, Amen."

I pray that everyone has a great race this week and weekend, no matter where you are racing. See you soon!

Reflections:

Prayers:

July 28, 2023
"Disappointment"

Often, we are disappointed when we do not get the finish that we were hoping for in a race or when a mechanical failure ends our race all too early. We may become disappointed when someone promises us something and then they do not follow through.

With God, the Bible, in Hebrews 10:23, provides us with a helpful verse, among many others, for when we may become disappointed with God if we do not "get what we want." When God promises us something, He will not let us down. When God promises us a relationship with Him, via salvation in Jesus Christ, He does not let us down.

Raceday Verse: "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful." - Hebrews 10:23

Raceday Prayer: "Lord, thank you for your promise that you are faithful and that we do not need to waver in our hope, our hope and trust in you. Lord, we come to you today asking for your protection, your blessing, your peace and countenance on us, on each and every driver, team, crew, official, staff member, first responder, fan and everyone that will have a part in this weekend's races. Keep us safe in your care and we pray for a great weekend of racing, In Jesus' Name, Amen."

Reflections:

Prayers:

August 4, 2023
"Trust"

Raceday Verse: Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

Thoughts: In racing we trust the car will stick when we send it into turns 1 and 3. We trust that the car will do what it is supposed to do, turn! You don't have time to stop and think about it. In life, sure, we may not always be in a turn 1 or turn 3 mindset but there are times where we are pressed for a decision. Whether in a time of crisis or when things are calm, a habit and lifestyle of prayer and trusting in God, that He cares for us, and that He has his best for us, will always lead us down the right path and course.

Raceday Prayer: "Lord, thank you that we can pause and pray today. We pray for the racing this weekend, for safety and for all the decisions and action at the track and for all involved. Thank you, God, that your word promises that when we put our trust in you, that You will make our paths straight and lead us. Be with us Lord in every straight-away and in every turn on the track and off the track in life. In Jesus' name, amen!"
Have a great day all!

Reflections:

Prayers:

August 8, 2023
"Trust - Part 2"

Raceday Verse: Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

Thoughts: Last week we looked at these verses from Proverbs 3 and focused on the first part, TRUST. But that is not the end of the good news. Yes, we need to trust that the car will perform as expected when on the track. We need to trust that all the hard work that went into the car will pay off, and we need to trust that God loves us, made a way for us to have a relationship with Him and trust that he made a way for us to be forgiven of our sins through believing in Jesus.

But what about part 2? Part 2 is where we do not need to lean on our own understanding in life. We are not alone in our path. In racing, there are many components of the race team, and we often need to lean on others for their understanding of the setup, tire wear, and more, to be successful. Often leaning on someone else's understanding leads to a win, a good finish or a great night at the track, because they have knowledge that we do not have.

The same is true when we live a life with God in it. He understands the big picture; He understands what we need, and he understands the highs and lows of life that we experience. We can trust Him for his goodness and plans, but we can also lean on Him, go to Him in prayer, have a conversation with Him, trusting that His understanding is better than anything I can figure out on my own and it is the best path forward for me, thus the "make your paths straight part of the verse."

As we walk through this life on and off the track, let's trust God for His goodness, salvation and His very best for us and then lean into His understanding, and ask Him for it and let Him keep our paths straight in life.

Raceday Prayer: "Lord, thank you that you are with us every day just for the asking. Lord, we do not need to understand everything that comes our way because your Word, the Bible, tells us that we can lean into you, for Your direction. Lord help us to acknowledge You and Your ways and be good followers of you. Lord we also ask today for safety for all involved in this weekend's races and we ask for safety, awareness and clarity for each and every driver in the cars. Be with us Lord in every straight-away and in every turn on the track and off the track in life. In Jesus' name, amen!"
Have a great day all!

Reflections:

Prayers:

August 18, 2023

Today's Race Day verse, thoughts and prayer! - Take care everyone.

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RACE DAY VERSE & PRAYER

Aug 18 2023

VERSE

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed,
for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. - Isaiah
41:10

THOUGHTS

You've prepared the car, you've arrived at the track
and now you're headed out for the race. You have a
certain sense that the car is ready, fast and there is
hope that you'll finish well & maybe just get that win!

In life we also know that we are ready, kept safe,
strengthened and ready for battle by putting our trust
in God and His goodness. Let Him help you today,
simply by asking Him to show up at your "racetrack of
life!"

PRAYER

Lord, thank you for the conversation of prayer. Today, we
once again ask you for your safety and care over all of
us today, down every straight away and in every corner
on the track and in our lives! In Jesus name, amen. -
Have a great race day everyone - Chaplain Tim

Reflections:

Prayers:

August 25, 2023.

Hello all. A bit of a different Chaplain Tim race post this week, but the walk and the talk are still the same for all of us!

Raceday Prayer: “Lord we come to You and ask for your peace, presence and protection for each of us today. Thank you for Your promise to never leave us and thank you for desiring to have a relationship with us.

Be with us today, Lord, and make yourself known in the straightaways and in the corners on the track and in our lives. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Raceday Verses: The substance:

God never leaving us: Deuteronomy 31:6-8, 1Chronicles 28:20, 1Corinthians 10:13

A relationship with God: Proverbs 3:5-6, Romans 5:8, John 3:16, Revelation 3:20, Hebrews 11:6

In every straightaway and in every corner: Isaiah 41:10-13

Take care everyone!

Reflections:

Prayers:

September 1, 2023

Today, being content is on my mind. For the last 8 weeks or so, I've had to be content in not being able to go to the racetrack. Various health items got in the way of my love for being at the track. While I think most of the health issues are behind me, and I am looking forward to being at the track today, I find that I am still thinking about being content, not just in a hardship, but in all things in life.

Raceday Verses: Hebrews 13:5-6 - "Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." So, we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?"

Thoughts: While these verses address loving money and not being content financially, I think there is a greater application. I needed to learn to be content whatever my situation is, whether it was health, not being able to attend races, etc. Verse 5 says to be content with what you have. That certainly relates to finances, but it also extends to the spot in life we are at, our present situations and more. What's great is that, in these verses, God promises us that he will never leave us and then that gives us the confidence, from Him, that we know He is our helper. It is a promise from God, that He is our helper who will never leave us, not just in financial matters but in all matters of life, if we simply trust in Him, His Word and His plans.

This race analogy popped in my head while thinking about today's mini devotional. At the track, sometimes you'll hear a driver or team say "well, the car is what it is, we have to go with what we've got." I guess in a way, you are realizing that it is "go time", you've done all you can do to prepare the car, get more speed out of it and now it's time to go racing. At this point, you may not be content, but you really don't have a choice. You cannot work on the car any longer and it is time to hit the track!

In life, we can take this a step further by realizing that even though things may not be exactly the way we planned, we can be content knowing that (second half of verse 5 and then verse 6 in Hebrews 13) God promises to never leave us or forsake us, He's always with us when we have a relationship with Him. We can trust that we do not need to be afraid of the situation, God is our helper. What can anyone do to us, that God cannot overcome?

So today and this weekend, let's work hard to be the best that we can be at the racetrack and in life. We know that with God's help, His leading and His promises, we can be content that our life in Christ, by following God's will and ways, is way better than what we might be "content" with on our own.

Raceday Prayer: Thank you, Lord, for your promise that you never leave or forsake us. Thank you that we can talk with you in prayer. Lord, we ask you to be with us all this weekend. We ask

you for your protection, safety, wisdom and clarity in all the situations at the track and in life this weekend. Lord thank you that you will not leave us in every straight away and in every turn on the track and in life! Thank you, Jesus, for saving us and for providing a way for us to have a relationship with you. In Jesus' name, Amen!
If you are at Stafford today, see you at the track.

Reflections:

Prayers:

September 8, 2023
"Schedules"

We all have schedules that we either must adhere to or want to stick to. If you're at all like me, when the schedule gets messed up, you might feel out of control or like everything is falling apart.

At the racetrack, we kind of need to stick to the schedule provided by those in charge, so that everything runs on-time and so that we get through the night's program as designed.

In life, maybe schedules are like rules, maybe they're meant to be broken, ha ha!!! Seriously though, when the schedule does not go our way, when we get a little bit frazzled, it might be good to keep in mind what the Bible says. There are many verses in the Bible that speak to schedules, plans, and next steps. Some of the ones that I'm thinking of today are listed below.

Raceday Verses: Matthew 6:33 - Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Proverbs 16:9 - The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.

James 1:5 - If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

Raceday Prayer: Lord, thank you for the day you have given us today. We pray that we would look to you for your plans, your schedule and your presence in our lives. Lord, we seek you as we prepare to race this weekend and ask you for your peace and protection on us all, on all the drivers in the cars and for all the teams, staff, officials, fans, first responders and all that have a part in the races this weekend. Thank you, Lord, that we can seek you, that you order our steps and that we can come to you for wisdom in our busy schedules, down every straightaway, and in every turn on the track and in life. In Jesus' name we pray, AMEN!
See you at the track!

Reflections:

Prayers:

September 15, 2023

"Ground Pounders" in the Bible???:

Thoughts: Wait, what? Are there are ground pounders in the Bible? Well sort of, keep reading to learn more...

For those of us who are tightly involved in the racing world, you may know the term "*Ground Pounder*." For those unfamiliar with this term, ground pounders refer to a race car, low to the ground, or a modified race car, that, as it passes you, is so loud and rumbling with power, that you feel it. It shakes you to the core and you cannot help but notice. So how does this apply to today's devotion?

Raceday Verse: Acts 16:26 "...and suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened." (Read Acts 16:11-40 for the entire story.)

So, what happened to cause the ground to shake and for the normal operations of a Roman prison to be uprooted? What was this "ground pounding?" In Acts 16, we read about the apostle Paul and his missionary trip to Europe.

As Paul was in Philippi, (Greece) he wound up rubbing the locals the wrong way and wound up being put in prison by the local leaders because he cast a demon out of a demon possessed and exploited girl. The girl was being exploited, to make money for others in the town as a fortune teller.

After Paul (and Silas) were put in prison, they began praying and singing to God and all of the other prisoners were listing. It is at this point when the ground pounding of verse 26 began to happen.

God heard their prayers. He knew of their situation and caused the ground to shake, for His power to be evident, for prisoners to be freed from their chains, and for something extraordinary to happen.

You can read the section of verses for the whole story (Acts 16:11-40,) but the story ends with Paul and Silas not running away when all the prison gates open and their chains fall away from their bodies. They wait for the leaders to come and tell them to leave. The prison guard comes to believe in Jesus because of this occurrence and Paul and Silas are freed.

What is the takeaway for us, for today's devotion? Two things stand out for me today. 1) The power of God is like nothing we can imagine, it is ground pounding, earth moving and prisoner freeing! God's power frees us from the prisons of sin and more! Paul and Silas trusted God, they prayed and sang to Him and trusted Him for their next steps. When God moves, it can shake us (and others) to the core and accomplish things we otherwise might not believe. 2) Believing in Jesus is how we are saved. Saved in our trials, saved from our sin and saved into eternal life.

Acts 16:30-31 "... and after he (the jailer) brought them out, he said "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."" So, this weekend, while some of us have an off week and are not racing, others are still racing. We all are in the race of life and can pray, sing and look to God for His ground pounding power in our lives, to be free from all that entangles us!

Raceday Prayer: Lord, thank you for your Word in the Bible and the recorded events in Acts 16. Thank you that Your power, Your grace and Your forgiveness is able to move the immovable in our lives. Lord, be with those that are racing this weekend, and we ask for your peace, protection, and provisions in keeping them safe. Lord, we ask and trust you to break the hard ground in our lives and be with us in every straight away and in every turn, on the track and off the track, in our lives, for you are a good and powerful God. In Jesus' name, Amen.

See you soon everyone, and the next time you hear a ground pounder, remember what God can do!

Reflections:

Prayers:

September 22, 2023
"Saving the Day"

Raceday Verse: "Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid." - Isaiah 12:2

We often thank our supporters, sponsors, family and friends when we wind up in victory lane with the win. They often save the day with their support, friendship and stick with us through thick and thin. We hear so many times that "I couldn't have done it without them!"

In life, God is our ultimate "sponsor," friend and supporter who is there with us along the way in our journeys, races and life. But He is also so much more than just a friend or supporter. He is our salvation and because of that we have the assurance of our eternity and His promises to us in His word, the Bible.

Raceday Prayer: "Lord, thank you for being our salvation. Help us to trust You and not to be afraid of what comes our way on the track or in life, down every straightaway and in every turn. Lord, we pray for safety and your peace and protection for everyone involved in this week's races. In Jesus' name, amen!"
See you at the track all.

Reflections:

Prayers:

October 6, 2023

"You need to be on the track to win the race."

We all dream and look forward to winning that first race, and then winning again!!! It is addicting, isn't it?

If we do not show up to the track, we have no chance at winning. We first need to come to the track each week. But showing up is not enough, we need to actually get near the action, get out on the track, practice our car, make some changes to the setup, engine, etc. and then run the race, just for the chance or hope of winning. Living a life with God, with Jesus, and His blessings and care is not different from a race.

Raceday Verses: The first part of James 4:8, in the Bible, is a promise from God. It says, "*Come near to God, and He will come near to you.*" This section in the Bible, James chapter 4, in a broader context, is speaking about the bad and immoral things to avoid in life so that we can have a life with Christ, with God.

In our racetrack analogy, we cannot win the race unless we show up, get on the track, practice the car, work on the car and then go race. We probably should also avoid negative things such as wrecking, going for the win on lap 1, neglecting the car that week etc.

In our walks with God, I see similarities. Often, we expect to hear from God and to know His will without even showing up. James 4:8 promises us that if we draw near to God, or if we "show up," He will draw near to us.

What does "showing up" look like in a relationship with God? First, acknowledge that we all are not perfect people, we all do things that are wrong, immoral and things that we know we shouldn't have done, or, well.... something that we call sin (read the first part of James chapter 4, for more on this.) Nobody is perfect, we all make bad decisions, but there is hope.

Talk to God, read the Bible, get involved with a good Bible teaching church, hang out with those that also want to get to know God. To race, we must show up, get on the track, practice, adjust and then race. We can do the same in our walk with God. Below are some race to life translations, followed by our weekly prayer.

Showing up at the racetrack = coming to God and asking him for His forgiveness for the sins we have committed, knowing that He Will forgive us. Ask Jesus to be the Lord and savior of your life and freely accept that gift from God.

Getting on the track = starting to live this new life in Christ. Seek out some other Christians, a church to attend and start reading the Bible. The book of John in the New Testament is a great place to begin.

Practicing your race car = begin walking this life in Christ as a new creation, a new believer (2 Corinthians 5:17). Hang out with others, get to know people in the church you might have attended. Read a bit of the Bible every day or often as you can, "practice" your faith, and pray,

talk to God each day. Thank Him for saving you, tell Him your worries, concerns and confess your sins. He is listening!

Adjustments to the car = when we mess up in life, confess those sins to God, he's forgiven us and loves us! Learn from our mistakes and make some adjustments in life to keep getting to know God better. Ask God to help you daily!

Race towards the win: 1 Corinthians 9:24 says "...run your race in such a way that you may seize the prize and make it yours." As we walk with God, as we work on our relationship with Him, go after it with excitement, confidence and faith in knowing that God goes before us, we are not alone in this life, and we have forgiveness that leads to everlasting life with him.

Raceday Prayer: "Lord, thank you for making a way that we can have a relationship with you. Thank you that we can live this life and not be alone in it. As we get ready to race this weekend, Lord, we do ask for your peace, your presence, and your protection over all of us at the various tracks this weekend. We pray for all of the drivers, their teams and crews and owners, the staff and workers at the tracks, all of the emergency staff, and everyone and anyone involved with the on and off-track logistics and races this weekend. Lord, be with us down every straightaway and in every turn this weekend, on the track and in life. In Jesus' name, Amen!"

As we are nearing the end of the race season, if you would like a team or individual prayer this weekend, just let me know or one of the "*Racing With Jesus*" chaplains that are serving.

Also, if you would like to know more about a relationship with Jesus, what it means to be forgiven and how that plays out in life, just let one of us chaplains know and we'd be happy to have a low key, fun, no pressure conversation about it all with you.
Be blessed everyone and see you at the racetrack!!!!

Reflections:

Prayers:

October 29, 2023

End of race season: Thoughts, Scripture & Information.

Thank you to everyone at Stafford Speedway for putting on another great and successful season. Thank you for your commitment to racing in CT. It was not easy this year with all the rain we experienced, but the product was top notch all around.

Thank you to all the teams, drivers and friends at Stafford this year for allowing me to serve you. Thank you for feeding me, hydrating me and for the friendship that goes beyond the track!

Whether we are on the racetrack or navigating life, I pray that we stay close to the Lord, seek Him, invite Him into our lives and let Him lead us ***“down every straight away and in every turn on and off the track.”***

Raceday Verse: Isaiah 41:10: So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

See you in the off season, at church or at the racetrack in 2024!

Reflections:

Prayers:

In 2024, I plan to again be at Stafford Speedway for the weekly race schedule. Once the season starts, if you would like a weekly chaplain visit, in your pit area, please do let me know. Various teams ask for a bit of extended conversation, prayer and conversation; and I am happy to work this into my rounds and responsibilities at the track, to meet your team's needs. You may contact me via the various methods below. Have a great off-season everyone, and I look forward to seeing you next year at the racetrack!

--- Chaplain Tim Garrison

Instagram: [timgarrison30](#)

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YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@TimGarrisonMusic>

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If you would like to support Tim Garrison's Chaplain Ministry, please reach out via the methods below.

For ministry questions or questions regarding donations, please email Tim at: tim.garrison@chaplainscollective.com (all donations can be made through The Chaplains Collective (a 501c3 ministry) where Tim's ministry credentials are held.)

Donations can be made by using the QR code below or by navigating to Tim's website at tgmmgroup.com or by visiting Tim's Chaplain page on the Chaplains Collective Website. (<https://chaplainscollective.com/timgarrison/>)



You may also send ministry emails to Tim at info@tgmusicmedia.com