

Get Your Praise On

n/a

Ready:

"Don't boast about tomorrow,
for you don't know what a day might bring.
Let another praise you, and not your own mouth—
a stranger, and not your own lips." –Proverbs 27:1-2

Set

Immediately after Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt obliterated the 200-meter dash world record at the Beijing Olympics, he wrapped himself in his country's flag, ran to the camera, and boldly proclaimed, "I'm number one! I'm number one!" Not only did he win the gold in the 200-meter dash, but in the 100-meter as well. Both were done in world-record times—a feat never before accomplished! But while other winning athletes graciously addressed their fellow competitors, Bolt beat his chest proclaiming his dominance. The International Olympic Committee President commented, "I think he should show more respect for his competitors and shake hands." What a novel idea!

Unfortunately, it is common for today's athletes to call attention to themselves. Many have a "look at me" attitude. Some even point to their name on the back of their jersey after making a great play. I often wonder why they don't do that when they get beat on a play or drop a pass.

As Christian competitors, we are called to a different standard. We are told to let others praise us. In fact, we should never be heard bragging about what we've done. The Competitor's Creed states: "I do not boast in my abilities, or believe in my own strength. I rely solely on the power of God." If we truly want to live that out on the playing field, then it's time to give credit where credit is due. Anything we are able to achieve is the result of God's great gift to us!

Go

1. Do you find yourself telling others of your athletic success?
2. Do you eagerly give credit to God and let others know that He is the source of your strength?

Workout

Deuteronomy 8; Proverbs 27:21; Jude 1:16

Overtime

Father, thank You for the talents You have given me. May they bring honor and glory to You.

Amen.

Bible Reference:

Jude 1



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