

Y.R.P. – God Working Through You

Proverbs 30:5 - “Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.”

Because of where God has positioned you, you have a unique opportunity that most people don't have. Here are a few reasons I believe God has given you some very unique gospel opportunities:

- 1) You're close in proximity:** When you're an athlete, you're constantly around teammates. You work out, watch film, practice, and play together. Because of the constant closeness, you have repeated opportunities to share Christ. If you succumb to fear one day and don't share the gospel, you can make up for it another day.
- 2) You're connected:** There's a unique familial feel that develops between athletes. You feel like you're going to war together. In light of this brotherhood or sisterhood, you develop rapport quickly, which can overflow into gospel conversations.
- 3) You're exposed:** You can't fake it on a team. Your true self comes out. If you claim Christ but you're a hypocrite, you'll put a bad taste in others' mouths. If you claim Christ and your actions and words align, however, you may not have to summon the courage to initiate every gospel conversation; people will often come to you.
- 4) Your words carry weight:** God has gifted some with tremendous athletic ability. If you're one of the starters on the team, don't waste your influence. If you're the star player, people will look up to you, follow you, and hang on every word you say. This comes with pressure, to be sure. But Jesus can provide the boldness you need.
- 5) You're a mirror:** Many athletes are still trying answer the question, “*Who am I?*” Many, if not all, will find their identity in their athletic performance. During this vulnerable time period, seize the opportunity to point others to Christ, encouraging them to let Him shape their identity.

A Few Simple Suggestions

- **Be bold.** Athletes love boldness. Unlike many other environments, you're not walking on eggshells when you're on a team. Be yourself, and don't overthink it. Let God move through you!
- **Use the Bible in your conversations.** The Spirit works through God's Word.
- **Own your mistakes when you mess up.** You're going to make mistakes. Perhaps you'll say or so something inappropriate. When this happens, remember the grace that is yours in Christ and apologize when necessary: “*My bad. That was my fault. I'm really sorry.*” Your teammates don't expect you to be perfect, and you don't have to be. But if you say you're a Christian, know that others will be watching you closely, even if they pretend not to notice. Be real about your imperfections. This will help them to respect you.
- **Share your testimony.** Sharing your conversion story can often open the door to gospel conversations.

P2R (Point 2 Remember): God is preparing someone right now to hear about Him through you. Will you be ready?