

The Story of Eric Liddell

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him who endured from sinners such hostility against Himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. Hebrews 12:1-3

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Jude 24-25

Eric Liddell was born in China to missionary parents. Eric was a shy and sometimes mischievous child. When the boys grew older they were enrolled in a school for the sons of missionaries. Throughout his life Eric was known for his strong faith, his athletic giftedness, and his fun loving spirit.

What do you think you will be remembered for when your life is over?

Eric was known as the Flying Scotsman. Eric's reputation as an athlete drew crowds of interested youth when he spoke about his faith in Christ. Eric, a shy public speaker, said that it was the bravest thing he ever did when he accepted the invitation to speak at the evangelistic meetings. Eric's faith was more important to him than his running. His running opened many doors for him to share about his faith.

What message do you have to tell the world?

The day of the Olympic run a man slipped a piece of paper into Eric's hand that contained a quote from the Bible, 1 Samuel 2:30, that said, "Those who honor me, I will honor." Eric ran the race with the paper in his hand.

If you carried a paper in your hand through life what would it say?

Eric didn't set himself up to be a leader, but God chose him and prepared the gifts that Eric needed to live and share his faith. Eric gave up fame and fortune to live for God. Although there were many offers that would have made more money for Eric, he chose to become a teacher in China.

Have you ever felt God's calling on your life? What do you think God created you to do?

The Chinese and Japanese were at war. In 1943 Eric was interned at a prison camp. He immediately became a leader at the camp helping organize food, medicines, and other supplies. Eric kept himself busy helping the elderly, teaching Bible classes, arranging games, and teaching science.

Eric chose to help others, even when life was difficult. How can you help improve life around you?

Eric Liddell lived his life to the fullest. Although he could have earned great acclaim and rewards for himself, he chose to live his life to the glory of God. Eric ran the race of life and faith regardless of the personal cost. Eric prayed, "Help me in the day when I need it most to remember that all things work together for good to those that love the Lord and that I can do all things through Him that strengthens me."

Dear Lord, help us to run the race You have set before us with endurance and faith. When life is difficult, lift us up with Your love and grace. Show us how to reach out to others and improve life around us instead worrying about ourselves. Help us to trust in You all the days of our lives. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.