

First Place, and the Others

Our society is inundated with hundreds of reasons why being first is a goal to be obtained.

It is necessary to be first in every line to get the best seat. Winning first place carries the most weight, the largest purse and the most recognition. Rarely are we able to recall the second runner-up – or even the first runner-up – in any event.

No doubt about it, first is the *crème de la crème*. Or is it?

There is nothing wrong with obtaining first-place status, to be sure. The Bible encourages us to set high goals and reach for them with perseverance. Each of us knows people we admire because of the goals they have set and reached through committed determination.

But what about those who do their very best and never make the first string of an athletic team, never get the top grade, don't win the crown in a beauty pageant, fail to win a trophy, etc. What do they do with God's promises?



God has a plan for each of us. The stakes are often very high. The game plan will be interrupted many times by the devil. We will doubt, be discouraged and face what seem to be impossibilities. However, God promised us that if we seek Him first, we have whatever we need – all of His blessings and all of His promises.

It takes faith! Some never make it to the finish line, yet their labor is rewarded because they did their best. The contributions of those on the sidelines or behind the scenes are rewarded, although not with a shiny plaque they can display.

Each of us can place first in what is true success if we simply believe the promises of God, be obedient to Him, and become dead to doubt, dumb to discouragement and blind to impossibilities.

Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you (Matthew 6:33 NASB).

– Beecher Hunter