

## Outspoken Christian Athletes

“It’s official; 2012 is the year that faith became more than just a post-game platitude,” wrote Jesse Carey in an article for *Relevant* magazine.

He cited as examples several top athletes who have chosen to use their fame and celebrity as a platform to share the gospel message. “Superstars like Tim Tebow, Olympians Gabby Douglas and Lolo Jones, and underdogs like Jeremy Lin and Bubba Watson made more headlines for their faith than their game,” Carey said.

Here’s what a few of them had to say:

- “I have so many things to work on, and so many ways that I fail. But that’s what grace is all about. And I constantly wake up every morning trying to get better, trying to improve, trying to walk closer to God.”  
– Tim Tebow, Heisman Trophy winner and former NFL quarterback
- “Golf is just an avenue for Jesus to use me to reach as many people as I can.”  
– Bubba Watson, two-time Masters champion golfer
- “When other people see me play basketball ... the way I treat my teammates, the opponents, the refs – that’s all a reflection of God’s image and God’s love. So that’s the stuff I try to focus on.”  
– Jeremy Lin, NBA basketball phenom
- “I would say the thing Tim Tebow and I have most in common is the thing that’s most important to us, and that’s our faith and our relationship with Christ, and everything flows through that. It’s an honor to be mentioned in the same sentence. I’m very grateful.”  
– Collin Klein, Heisman Trophy nominee and Kansas State Wildcats quarterback
- “I am so grateful God has truly blessed me! Remember to always give Him the glory for He is great! ... I give all the glory to God. It’s kind of a win-win situation. The glory goes up to Him, and the blessing falls down on me.”  
– Gabby Douglas, Olympic gold medal gymnast



(more)

These are men and women who have made a conscious choice to do what they do for the approval of the Lord rather than the approval of men. Yet, you don't need to be a world-class athlete to choose to use your life as a platform for witness.



In fact, we are each called to do the same. “Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him ... And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ” (Colossians 3:17, 23-24).

So whether your life plays out on the front pages of the newspaper, on the cover of magazines, on the broadcasts of major news networks or in the facilities of Life Care and Century Park, the neighborhood park or the aisles of the local grocery store, choose to make your life a platform for bringing all glory to God.

In the words of Gabby Douglas, “It’s a win-win situation. The glory goes up to Him, and the blessing falls down on us.”

– Beecher Hunter