

Heavenly Father, I come to you in the name of Your Son, Jesus. Thank You for sending Him to die for my sins, an incredible act of love performed just for me. I am sorry for sinning against You. I believe You are a forgiving God, as Your Word says, and that You forgive me of all of my sins. I believe You raised Jesus from the grave, overcoming death, and allowing me to accept Him and receive eternal life through Him. Jesus, please come and reside in my heart and be my Savior, Anchor, and Lord. Amen!



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RELAY FOR LIFE



HOW TO WIN THE RACE

One of the most exciting events in track and field is the mile relay. Beyond the necessary training, equipment, and competing by the rules is the strategy of what runner runs what quarter- mile leg of the race. The first runner sets the stage, striding for the team confidence of being in the lead. The second and third runners maintain or enhance the lead, and the anchor or final runner is the quickest dynamo the team needs to break through the finish line in victory.

The Bible talks about us running our race too, and how a cloud of witnesses actually roots us on from the balcony of Heaven. How do the strategies of the mile run compare with the components of running our life race and winning in God's or the Ultimate Judges' eyes? Well...

To break out in the lead, the first holder of the baton must know that God is on the scene as the Scene Maker, that He loves us, and wants the best for us.

The second and third runners must gain, maintain or enhance a relationship with the One who Created us with the ability to run our race at all. Because we have a

fallen nature, we are not right in God's sight and cannot be officially on His team unless we first ask for His forgiveness. The Bible says we have all sinned and fall short of God's glory. The wages of sin is separation from God (Spiritual death or a fatally dropped baton). The Bible also says it's never too late for us to be forgiven. (1 John 1:9)

The final victory kick comes when we receive God's forgiveness, believe in Christ's Name, and become God's child and most intimate team or family member. There is no finish line more glorious than acknowledging the Cross where Jesus declared, "It is Finished". It is there where He crowned us as a winner in Him.

Remember, in the mile relay, the handoff efficiency between the runners is vital. With that in mind, please accept my handoff or invitation to you. To respond and obey the starting gun of God's call for your lane in life, recite the following prayer and begin the race that truly matters and ends in His loving and congratulating embrace. - Hallelujah!