



January 16, 2017

Accelerate!

“Don’t think I’ve come to make life cozy.” (Matthew 10:34, MSG)

You are “called” to coach! As a coach you will impact more individuals in one season than the average person will in a lifetime. As a coach in today’s society, you are one of the greatest authority figures in an athlete’s life. You have been called to provide direction and guidance to your players.

God has uniquely created you to build a legacy that involves transforming the heart of your athletes and leading them on a spiritual journey to find their purpose in our performance-based culture of sports. Baseball is your tool. The baseball field is your classroom.

As “coach” there will be times when it feels like you are stuck and unable to pursue your calling to build a Christ-centered legacy. At other times, opportunities will appear and it will be ‘time to accelerate’. As you accelerate there are three keys to keep in mind.

First, you can expect some opposition. As a coach in the community you have a high profile. The higher the profile, the more criticism you can expect. Those that have followed God have always faced opposition (Psalm 9:3-6), however in Christ you are promised that ultimately you will overcome.

Second, if you want to accelerate, you must be willing to embrace sacrifice. It is clear that those who follow God and want to be used more, must be willing to be identified with Him. (Matthew 10:32-33). You cannot understand your true calling unless you offer yourself as “a living sacrifice” (Romans 12:1) to God.

Third, if you want to see acceleration in the growth of your players, you will need to be forceful and enjoy the challenge. As a competitor this may be the easiest for you to understand and act upon. As a coach you love the challenge of competition and the opportunity to build a team. God throughout history has and continues to use those who embrace and accept the challenge to carry out His plan and purpose. This includes you!

Embrace the challenge and excitement to be counted amongst those “called” to build a Christ-centered legacy in the lives of athletes in your community!

Question: Are you up to the challenge of your calling to be a coach?

Challenge: Read Romans 12:1-2. What does it look like to be “a living sacrifice” as a coach?

Prayer: Thank you God for the opportunity you have provided me to build a legacy. Grant me the wisdom, courage and persistence to honor and accept this gift of grace to build a Christ-centered legacy in the lives of my players. Amen.

-- Todd Burger – NOVA/DC FCA Baseball