



FELLOWSHIP OF  
**CHRISTIAN ATHLETES**  
**BASEBALL**

## Championship Thinking

*Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, " -- Hebrews 12:11*

As competitors we all love when our team wins the Championship, or at least comes close. Anyone who has played baseball knows that this is not an easy task. It takes physical skill, a season without injury, and a willingness to "grind it out" even when things aren't looking so good.

Chuck Noll, former Pittsburgh Steelers Head Coach has said; "champions are champions not because they do anything extraordinary, but because they do the ordinary things better than anyone else." If anyone should know, it should be Coach Noll, he one 4 Super Bowls during his coaching career.

I am certainly no Chuck Noll, but I agree with him wholeheartedly. I think doing the "ordinary" or fundamental things better than anyone else leads to success both in athletics and in life!

While coaching both High School and FCA Baseball, I gave my team the following 4 Pillars for Success. I called I the 4 P's.

1. Play Smart - Execute the fundamentals and do them better than anyone else!
2. Play Aggressive with No Fear – Be a competitor and use your God-given ability to the max!
3. Play to Win – Give your all, all the time!
4. Play with Joy! – Let your play be an example of how much you enjoy the game!

I believe that each of these 4 Pillars will not only guarantee success on the field, but are necessary for us to "run with endurance the race that lies before us."

Each pillar has a scriptural basis:

1. Play Smart - Execute the Fundamentals and do them better than anyone else!  
**Luke 6:47-49 – [build your spiritual house on the solid foundation of Christ!]**
2. Play Aggressive with No Fear – Be a Competitor and use your God-given ability to the max!  
**2 Timothy 1:6-7 – [God has not given us a spirit of fearfulness, but one of love!]**
3. Play to Win – Give your all, all the time!  
**Colossians 3:23 – [Everything we do should be done to honor God!]**
4. Play with Joy!  
**Romans 15:13 – [God has given us His spirit and it is overflowing!]**

Let's stay true to the fundamentals. *Play Smart* and read God's word, Pray & Communicate with Him daily. Worship Him, and Engage with other Christ-centered friends that can hold us accountable. *Play without fear* and live our life as God has intended us to live. In full abundance without anxiety and instead focus on His plan and love for us. *Play to win* in **everything** we do – honoring God; and finally, *Play with joy*. The joy that comes from having His Spirit in us and recognizing the His grace!

**Challenge:** Pay attention to the things you do both on and off the baseball field. Consider if you are using these 4 Pillars.

**Reading This Week:** Hebrews 12:11, Luke 6:47-49, 2 Timothy 1:6-7, Colossians 3:23, Romans 15:13

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, thank you for creating me, loving me, and saving me! Give me the courage to live without fear in everything I do, both on and off the field. And may I do it by paying attention to the fundamentals with pure joy in the hopes of honoring you.

-- Todd Burger – Director, NOVA/DC FCA Baseball