

GOING FOR THE GOLD

By Keith Greer

Salt Lake City, Utah was the site of the 2000 Winter Olympics. Athletes from all over the world were competing for gold medals. In a spiritual sense, we also are striving for "gold"-the golden streets of heaven as described in the book of Revelation, 21:8,21. What is needed for a child of God to gain this golden prize?

Desire. Every athlete going to the games has a strong desire to win that gold medal. A Christian's burning and consuming desire must be to gain heaven. "But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them. " {Hebrews.11: 16} This desire can also be described as the hope and anchor of our souls, Hebrews 6:19.

Commitment. Athletes prepare for years, some a whole lifetime, for the chance to win that gold medal. Our commitment to the Lord must be genuine. We must pledge our obedience to Him in all things we do. Please read, Romans 6:16-18 and 2 Timothy 1:12.

Involvement. We must get involved in the Lord's work if we ever expect to win the heavenly prize! Look at the life of Paul as described in 2 Corinthians 11:23-30. We sing songs which encourage this very thing: "I Want to be A Worker for the Lord." "Here Am I Send Me." "Far and Near." "Sowing the Seed of the Kingdom." How will one ever see those golden streets who is not involved in His kingdom now?

Sacrifice. Athletes make many personal sacrifices to win that gold medal. We too must make sacrifices in life to win the prize. Philippians 1:27; 3:3-14. Some things we will have to give up in order to win. Do you want it bad enough to put Him first in your life?

Endurance. Olympic athletes train their bodies to endure for the long haul. As Christians we must remember being a Christian is a lifetime race. " ... And let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith ... "{Hebrews 12:1,2} Good luck to all! ***