



Meet Eric Liddell (1902-1945)

Scottish Olympian & missionary to China

PD https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eric_Liddell#/media/File:Eric_Liddell.jpg
source <http://lewishamlegacy.wdfiles.com/local--files/eric-liddell/EricLiddell.jpg>
PD because this was a published photo pre-1925 (photo July 1924 Stamford Bridge, London)

1. Eric in China

2. Eric in England

3. Eric in Scotland

4. Eric in Paris (at the 1924 Olympics)

5. Eric in China (1925-1945)

Matthew 5:44 ESV



⁴⁴ “But I [Jesus] say to you,
Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”

6. Eric’s impact

7. Our race (of faith)

8. Our endurance (needed to run the race of faith)

Hebrews 12:1d NLT



^{1d} And let us run with **endurance**
the race [Gk. *agona*] God has set before us...

A. What is endurance? Endurance is the ability to remain under difficulty without crumbling.

1) By definition, endurance requires _____ (“the ability to remain”)

2) By definition, endurance requires _____ (“without crumbling”)

B. Why do we need endurance?

9. Our hindrances (that keep us from running the race of faith with endurance)

Hebrews 12:1b NLT



^{1b} let us strip off every **weight** that **slows us down** [^{NIV} that hinders],
especially **the sin** that so easily **trips us up**.

A. The weights (that slow us down)

B. The sin (that trips us up)



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10. Our focus (will help determine *if* we run the race of faith with endurance)

Hebrews 12:2,3



² NLT We do this [i.e. run with endurance v. 1] by keeping our eyes on Jesus, ...

Because of the joy awaiting Him,

He endured the cross, disregarding its shame.

³ GNT Think of what He went through,

how He put up with so much hatred from sinners!

So do not let yourselves become discouraged and give up.

A. What's the result of focusing on ourselves?

B. What's the result of focusing on our circumstances?

C. What's the result of focusing on others?

D. Why should we focus on Jesus?

11. Our encouragement (so we *can* run the race of faith with endurance)

Hebrews 12:1a,2c



1a NLT ...we are surrounded

by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith,...

2c NIV [Jesus] sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

A. The witnesses

B. Jesus sat down

C. Jesus is at the right hand of God

12. Eric's perspective (on winning "gold")

"It's been a wonderful experience
to compete in the Olympic Games
and to bring home a gold medal.
But since I have been a young lad,
I have had my eyes on a different prize.
You see, each one of us is in a greater race
than any I have run in Paris,
and the race ends when God gives out the medals."



Eric Liddell

from *Something Greater than Gold* by Janet and Geoff Benge, p. 69.



1. What stands out to you about Eric Liddell's life? 2. What encourages you in this lesson? 3. What slows you down in the Christian life? 4. Do you have a tendency to compare yourself with others? Why? What has focusing on others resulted in?