



WEEKLY CHRISTIAN FOCUS

John Stephen Akhwari, the last man staggered into the arena—bloodied, limping, but unbroken—completing the race that seemed impossible. His words afterward captured why his story endures: “My country did not send me 5,000 miles to start the race; they sent me 5,000 miles to finish the race.”

(There are two stories about athletes in this edition.)

GOD’S CHOICES VS MAN’S CHOICES! PART I

PART II MAN PROPOSES BUT GOD DISPOSES.

PART I GOD’S CHOICES VS MAN’S CHOICES!

ONE of the main things I have learned over and over again in this life is that it really doesn't matter what other people think of you. It only matters what God thinks of you. Of course we should heed the advice of our brethren and sisters and elders, as that is the way to succeed, which is crystal clear in the Bible. Here, in this edition, I am talking about not listening to direct discouraging advice that is not coming from the Lord.

I take great comfort in the fact that people whom God has called like you and me, are very often looked at narrowly or with distrust or with disrespect or disbelief and hostility by both other Christians at times and by many in the world, the latter is to be fully expected, of course.

All that matters is that God knows who you are. That's step one, step



two could be, if possible that your wife or husband believes in you, or your pastors or spiritual elders believe in you. However **even if they don't, your job is to keep going for God, try your best to serve Him and love Him and cast all your burdens on the Lord for He cares for you.**

I have suffered this difficulty of the first paragraph for decades and I still find it hard to deal with, whereas I really shouldn't if I just knew that God knows it all.

Another important thought is that because people of the world and un-prayerful Christians do not have wisdom, they will often 'propose' things or say things negatively that are completely off the track of what God is thinking and doing and wishes to do.

Here are some Biblical and secular examples that may amaze you.

- The whole chapter of 1 Samuel 16, describes in detail how David, a young teenager, or possibly younger, was chosen by God through Samuel the Prophet to be the next king of Israel, although being the youngest of Jesse's eight sons! The prophet looks through all Jesse's sons, and beginning at the oldest son the Lord tells

Samuel, the potentially life changing verse for all of us: ⁷ But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart. The prophet Samuel himself had to learn of God's way of looking at people and situations. We are all still so far away from this standard, I feel. Lord help us.

• God's true men and women of God will usually/always see things completely differently from 'normal' people. When Elisha was in the city of Dothan, his enemies the Syrians surrounded the city in the cover of night, fully expecting to capture him the next day. It was a seemingly hopeless and terrifying situation as the next day began. **Elisha's servant said 'Alas, Master, but what shall we do!?' Elisha replied with these eternally wise words: 2 Kings Chapter 6: ¹⁶ And he answered, Fear not: for**

they that be with us are more than they that be with them.

¹⁷ And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.



¹⁸ And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed unto the LORD, and said, Smite this people, I pray thee, with blindness. And he smote them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.

- **As a general principle, we should always remember this in 1 Corinthians chapter 1:** ²⁷ But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

²⁸ And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

²⁹ That no flesh should glory in his presence.

- The choosing by God

Himself for Mary to be the mother of Jesus Christ. Mary was of no particular greatness in the eyes of men/or women, yet she was the one out of all the virgins of Israel who found favour with God!

Luke chapter 1 ²⁶ And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,

²⁷ To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

²⁸ And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

²⁹ And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

³⁰ And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

³¹ And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

³² He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and

the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

³³ And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Those are just a few of the many hundreds of examples in the Bible and I did not even write about 'David and Goliath', which phrase is, like many in the Bible embedded AS AN ETERNAL LESSON into Christian cultures around the world!

PART II Man proposes but God disposes

Proverbs 19: 21 **Man proposes, but God disposes.**

Secular examples:

Napoleon Bonaparte's boast about invading Russia.

Napoleon Bonaparte's Presumption
Isaiah 10:15

Shall the ax boast itself against him that hews therewith? or shall the saw magnify itself against him that shakes it?...

When Bonaparte was about to invade Russia, a person who had endeavoured to



dissuade him from his purpose, finding he could not prevail, quoted to him the proverb, "Man proposes, but God disposes"; to which he indignantly replied, "**I dispose as well as propose.**" A Christian lady, on hearing the impious boast, remarked, I set that down as the turning point of Bonaparte's fortunes. **God will not suffer a creature with impunity thus to usurp His prerogative.** It happened to Bonaparte just as the lady predicted. His invasion of Russia was the commencement of his fall.

Athletics miracle: I recently watched a rerun of the last Olympic race of 1,500 meters on YouTube. (Link below) I found it funny, but not unsurprising, that the winner of the race, although regarded as a good athlete, 'was not supposed to be/or win therefore' quite at the same level as the two favourites, and the two commentators (male and female) went on and on and on and on and then even more 'on' about which one of the two 'favourites' was going to win. **I had to laugh out loud!**

I greatly encourage you to watch this 12 minute video, and you will see exactly what I mean! (Links below also about who the winner actually is!) **I PRAY YOU ALL TAKE GREAT COURAGE AND INSPIRATION FROM THIS MAN AND HIS ABILITY TO BELIEVE IN GOD. His Final 30 metres 'burst' of power can only be likened to the great Eric Liddle! ++ (link below)**

1. **Elvis Presley** Elvis was famously rejected after an early audition.

Yes, Elvis Presley faced significant early rejections,

notably being told he "couldn't sing" by local groups like [the Songfellows](#) and famously by [Grand Ole Opry manager](#) Jim Denny after his debut, who suggested he return to driving a truck; these rejections, along with failing a music class in school, fuelled his determination to succeed despite initial dismissal from the mainstream music scene. (Video Link below)

My own thoughts or feelings about Elvis Presley or 'Ma Wang' in Chinese** is that he was or became a sincere believer in Jesus Christ. Some of the corrupt system around him, forced him into certain irrevocable paths, and he eventually succumbed, or died due to the influence of some form of medications. BUT if you watch him perform Christian or Gospel songs, you will understand this man wished to know Jesus Christ, or already knew him.

[How Great Thou Art | Elvis Presley 4K \(Live Music Video\) | Outtake - Elvis on Tour \(1972\)](#) YES!
[Elvis - How Great Thou Art \(1972\)](#)

** 马王 Ma Wang

So sometimes rejection and lack of faith by others, can 'fuel' our own determination to go on for the Lord. Elvis did not give up and accept the word of man's discouragement.

SUMMARY:

Have people written you off? Whether believers or worldly people? It doesn't matter. Please and happily join the long line of millions of people who have suffered the same situation. **But don't let it be your fate!** Turn the negative into positive and rejoice and trust in God. Continue to love Him with all your heart.

Remember this closing verse just below and pray and believe the Lord has great things in store for you. Amen. God bless you!

² For He says, In the time of favour (of an assured welcome) I have listened to *and* heeded your call, and I have helped you

on the day of deliverance (the day of salvation). Behold, now is truly the time for a gracious welcome *and* acceptance [of you from God]; behold, now is the day of salvation!

God bless you. You have victory through the blood of Jesus Christ.

Until next week, God willing, Jerry for the WCF Team
[man proposes but God disposes - Google Search](#)

[Hocker vs Kerr vs Ingebrigtsen | INCREDIBLE 1.500m final Paris 2024 | Athlete Highlights - YouTube](#)

This video shows the actual race between two great and established champions and the rest of the field. You will note that the commentators (male and female), hardly talk about anyone else. In their minds this is a race of only two people!)

[What religion is Cole Hocker? - Beliefnet](#)

well, well, we find out that the winner of the race is actually a strong Christian.

And this: [is cole hocker a devout Christian - Google Search](#)

[Napoleon Bonaparte's Presumption](#)

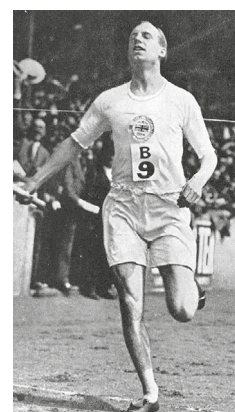
[Sermons by Whitecross elvis presley rejected at his first audition - Google Search](#)

*** (and I encourage you to please research for yourself, or request our free edition about 'Strength and Power' pdf file just ask at email wcf@nym.hush.com) we I send it to your email.

++ Eric Liddle [eric liddle - Google Search](#)

ERIC LIDDLE'S LIFE is a life changing man and history and

ministry including the movie, CHARIOTS OF FIRE. One of the greatest Christians from the western world in the 20th century.





The greatest last place finish ever

The basic facts don't tell the story. John Stephen Akhwari was a marathon runner who represented Tanzania in the marathon in 1968.

He didn't win a medal. In fact, he came nowhere near. But, in defeat and in pain, he came to represent something much more profound and enduring than many sportsmen achieve in illustrious careers.

John Stephen Akhwari was never likely to win the men's marathon, but his chances were wrecked when, perhaps because of the effects of the high altitude, he succumbed to cramps that slowed his progress. If that was painful, then worse was to come after he was involved in a melee of athletes jockeying for position.

Akhwari fell to the ground, gashing his knee and also causing a dislocation. He also smashed his shoulder against the pavement. Most observers, seeing his injuries, assumed he would pull out and go to hospital. Instead, he received medical attention and returned to the track to continue his race.

His pace, of course, was now much lower, but his resolve to complete the event remained intact. Eighteen of the 75 starters had pulled out; he did now wish to add to that number.

And so, more than an hour after the winner, Tanzania's Akhwari crossed the line in last place, cheered home by a few thousand spectators who had remained in the stadium after the sun went down. The medals had already been awarded. By the time he reached the stadium, he was limping and the bandage around his leg was flapping in the breeze.

He was asked why he'd carried on, and his response has gone down in sporting history. "My country did not send me 5,000 miles to start the race," he said. "They sent me 5,000 miles to finish the race."

Watch his last place: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hq3rOMnLGBk>

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