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You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth?

Galatians 5:7 (NIV)

Thought for today...

I am not a fan of cool climates. I love to feel the warmth of the sun on my face and to see it shining brightly in the sky. 'Back in the day' I could regularly be found participating in many sporting activities, with athletics track and field events among my favourites. For me though, there was nothing more disheartening than running in the rain on a wet track.



I vividly recall the day of the 100m sprint final, when it was anticipated that I would retain my championship title. It was raining. The slight drizzle quickly became an insistent pour and I felt cold. I remember trying to convince myself that I didn't need to warm up, as I knew all of the other finalists and knew that none of them could beat my time. I ignored my teammates when they asked "Aren't you going to warm up?" and instead sat huddled in a blanket, feeling miserable and willing the rain to stop. It didn't.

At the sound of the starting pistol I was away! In the lead and with only 10 or so metres to go, I remember feeling somewhat lightheaded and disoriented, wondering whether my legs would carry me over the finish line; they did, but in someone else's lane...

Although I had crossed the line first, I was disqualified. By running into someone else's lane I had hindered their race. The Apostle Paul warns: **'And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.'** 2 Timothy 2:5 (NKJV).

I wonder how often each of us are tempted to run our race in someone else's lane, or are even guilty of hindering someone else's race? We may think that someone else's gift is better than ours, that we'd do more with the gift that someone else has, or even be tempted to make our ministry look like someone else's in a hope to garner the same success. The Bible tells us: **'Some He will assign to be commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and others to plow His ground and reap His harvest, and still others to make weapons of war and equipment for His chariots.'** 1 Samuel 8:12 (NIV).

We may worry that because someone else has a great gift and we've yet to discover our own, perhaps God has forgotten us. The Apostle Peter reminds us: **'God has given each of you a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.'** 1 Peter 4:10 (New Living Translation). Additionally, the Apostle Paul encourages us: **'So we are to use our different gifts in accordance with the grace that God has given us...'** Romans 12:6 (Good News Translation).



Whether our gifts are different or the same, God has equipped each of us and is calling us to run our own race in the lane that He has graced us for, using the unique personality and character that He has given us to accomplish our assignments.

'But as God has distributed to each one, as the Lord has called each one, so let him walk...' 1 Corinthians 7:17 (New King James Version).