

The Christian Race

Like an athlete training for a race
Focus and discipline is the key
In order to be ready to compete
I must keep my eyes on Thee.

God's Word gives me energy
It is the spiritual food I must ingest
As I come to God in prayer each day
He prepares me for the test.

I step into the starting blocks
The gun signals to begin the race
As I glance around to and fro
I try to keep up pace.

But I realize that when my head is turned
My stride slows down a bit
So I decide to focus on the finish line
Where Jesus, my LORD, will sit.

As I proceed down my lane
To my surprise I see
Hurdles set up along my route
This was not supposed to be!

I do not know how to hurdle!
How did these obstacles get in the way?
I bet Satan put them there
In an attempt to cause me to stray.

Oh, LORD, I pray, help me fly
Over the hurdles of life I face.
I can only do it with Your help
Being carried over by Your grace.

I raise one leg and then the other
The first hurdle I sail right past
But as I try to clear the second
My success just does not last.

The hurdle tumbles to the ground
Causing me to stumble
I become so discouraged, I want to quit
Because I am so humbled.

But I hear a voice at the finish line
Calling me by name
"Julie, occasionally you may trip and fall
But I love you just the same.

You won't be disqualified
If some hurdles are knocked down
Just continue to use the power I can give
And your face won't wear a frown.

Those obstacles won't seem so tough
You'll stumble less and less
As you endure, you'll enjoy the race
For your life will indeed be blessed.

And when I meet you at the finish line
A great reward you will receive
A crown of righteousness I will give you
Eternal blessings too awesome to believe."

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but that only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we are imperishable.

I Corinthians 9:24-25