

## GET IN THE GAME

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I scribed this message during a U.S. football season, to share with my Christian ministry team mates, to provide an analogy between a sporting event to active Christian participation. As Believers, God called us to get in the game (His game). Here's my take on what getting in the game means to me. Hopefully, it will speak to you as well.

In 1 Pet 4:10 (NLT) Scripture reads, "God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another." A football team needs more than a quarterback. The kicker can do what the linebacker can't. A tight end can do what a cornerback can't. We all have different gifts, and when we put them together we can have a strong team.

**Step #1: "Get on the Team."** It doesn't matter if we're talking about football, our job, or whatever ... if you are not on the team; you're not getting in the game. ***You must be Born Again.*** It is numero uno that if you want to be on Christ's team – a Christian – that you had to accept His free and gracious gift of salvation by acknowledging that without Him you're a lost sinner and that He is the only way to God and eternal life with Him.

**Step #2: "Get Prepared."** You're not going to play for Coach ABC (at Auburn) or Coach XYZ (at Alabama) unless you're first are "on the team" and second, are prepared to play. Just as a football team has to get in shape/train, learn the plays, and suit up to play, ***we as Christians must read the Word, pray, connect with other Believers and suit up (ref. Eph 6:10-18) so we can stand strong against satan's schemes.***

**Step #3: "Get on the Field."** Now that you're on the team and you've prepared, doesn't it seem simple now that we just get out on the field to play the game. Not necessarily. Whether it's a football game or exercising our Christian walk/life, we're about to put faith into action. It reads in James 2:26 that "faith without works is dead." We're of no use to our team if we stay on the bench.

I challenge you – as I am challenged – to get off the bench and do something for God's kingdom. We're all needed and essential to His master plan!

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