

# Stay in the Game

Rachael Martin 5,11,2018

As I was driving down the road tonight in a place of reflection as always, I had a vision of a baseball player sitting on the bench. He looked bored, but his eyes were intent on the game at the same time.

Then I saw different positions and people doing different things like one guy was handing water out to everyone. Flipping through this scene in my head, I saw one guy up to plate and he struck out for the final time and shaking his head jogged back to the dugout.

Then I saw the next guy hitting a perfect pitch, but the ball went far left and when the umpire shouted “foul”, it seemed so loud the ground could have shook.

Then, the same guy hit the ball again and this time, the ball sailed out past the stands – boom – homerun... and I thought to myself, finally, something positive in this scene going on in my head!

Friends, I’m going to be the voice of reason and encouragement right now.

Not everything we do is going to succeed and not everything we strive for will be a home run, however, there has to come a point in our lives, where we don’t quit. Where we stick it out even when it’s uncomfortable. I started to wonder what point was it for that guy to be sitting on the bench the whole time? I heard the Lord say, as He has said many a time to me in some way, shape, or form - “You have NO CLUE what’s in store for him if he sticks it out with this team.”

No... I don’t. I may not EVER know what success or valuable lesson that man earns by sitting on that bench, but he will never know either if he doesn’t stick it out for the sake of the team, for the sake of his career, for the sake of the plan for his life.

Each one of us has a different role and this analogy can be spun 15 different ways from Sunday, and I’m sure that each one reading this is in or has been in a place of uncertainty. There is something to be said for what you are going through or have gone through, the Lord sees your tenacity, He sees your loyalty, He sees your commitment and He sees your role.

I want to leave some scriptures here for you, there are some below that are pretty to the point and show God’s instruction, others show His cheering us on. Either way, stay in the game friends – stay close to Him.

**Philippians 3:12-14 - Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup> Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.**

**Galatians 5:7 - You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth?**

**Galatians 6:9 - And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.**

**James 1:12 - Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.**

**2 Timothy 2:5 - An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.**

**Isaiah 40:28-31 - Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. <sup>29</sup> He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. <sup>30</sup> Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; <sup>31</sup> but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.**