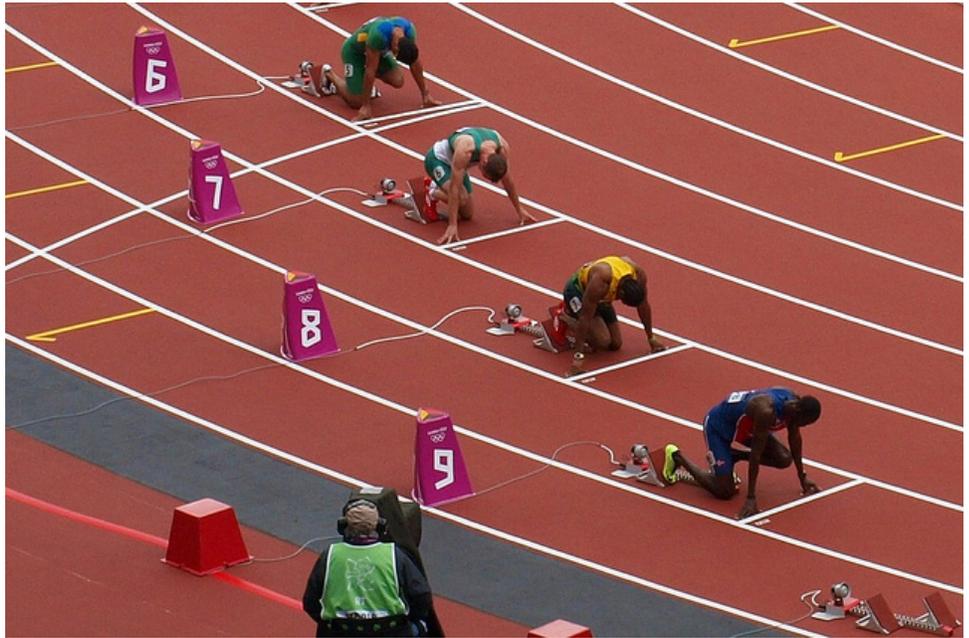


*“This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? **Having Begun In The Spirit**, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?” Galatians 3:2-3no2 KJV*

You can't win a race by cutting across the infield. You have to obey the rules. That's why there are lines. If you are a born again believer, you can remember the moment when the burden of your sin was lifted! It required no effort on your part, nothing but the helpless cry of your lost soul, "Lord save me!" And He did, and



you knew that He did! This is how we begin Eternal Life, in the Spirit of Grace, Mercy, and Love. None can love you like God. none have loved you longer. *“The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, ‘Yea, I have Loved thee with an Everlasting Love: therefore with Lovingkindness have I drawn thee.’”* What was it that drew your heart to God? I'll admit, it was the fear of Hell that got my attention, but it was the Love and Forgiveness of God that drew me to Him. The same Spirit that drew me and saved me, now, keeps me! It's not anything I do or don't do that keeps me, but the Grace of God. *“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His Mercy He Saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil. Not of works (keeping the Law) lest any man should boast.”* Faith is a miracle of Eternal Life wrought in you by the hearing of God's Word. Think about it. What caused you to believe God's Word and want to obey it? Did you before? What changed? I'll tell you what changed. You actually HEARD the Word! *“Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.”* God healed your spiritual deafness! We often hear with our physical ears things that never get to the soul! *“For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”* God's Word made and makes the difference!

What God begins, God will finish,
Man cannot one whit diminish,
His Grace and Love forever sure,
They will forever more endure! –CGP

The desire to repent is God given. It separates the unbeliever from the believer. Repentance is quite simply a return or turning to the obedience of God's Word. Sorrow and remorse may lead you there, but repentance is obedience. Obedience is the evidence of faith, and faith is the evidence of God!

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, THE EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.” Hebrews 11:1-3 KJV