



Raising up Christ centered leaders for God's Kingdom  
by reaching and discipling college athletes



October  
24, 2019

The  
"Williams  
Word"

Volume 6  
Issue 3

## Contentment in Christ, not circumstances

Have you ever been with a group and something just felt off? Recently I (Matt) gave the message for Butler Football's chapel. As I was speaking, I could see the lack of passion and desire on their faces. The team is struggling with only one win on the season. The temptation to point figures and blame shift is strong. Knowing this, the Lord lead me to Philippians 4:13 — "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."



Devon sharing his testimony

This verse is often viewed as motivation for overcoming or achieving, especially in the context of sport. But if you look at the context (vs.11-13) closer, it becomes clear that Paul's aim was to share how the gospel gave him contentment and joy regardless of his circumstances. That's a truth that is accessible to all who are in Christ!

We also heard from Devon, a former Notre Dame and Colts football player. He shared about the ups and downs of his career, and how his faith in Christ gave him greater meaning and purpose outside of football. I left the guys with a charge to find their contentment in Christ, not their circumstances.

This truth is indicative of the greater struggles we face in this ministry to college athletes. Much of their life they've been told to overcome, achieve, and be better. Therefore, anything that might give them a leg up is tried. It's why so many athletes approach their faith as more of a lucky charm than a dynamic relationship. As a result, their faith is a silent agreement with God.

Even Christian athletes can think if they do the "right things" on the surface (like pray before a game), God should bless their athletic pursuits. But this is dangerous ground. When hardships like losing and injury come along, they emotionally tear up the silent agreement with God. The audience God has called us to reach with the gospel is nuanced. **Pray that we have wisdom and endurance to navigate this spiritual battlefield; also for patience in trusting God for lasting fruit.**

## Prayer for November

Every year in the month of November we give intentional focus to the "sending" aspect of our ministry. The first step is teaching on eternal perspective and God's heart for the world in our discipleship groups. Then we help juniors and seniors think about life after college and how to combine their faith and vocation. We also promote trips and retreats that help athletes grow in specific ways. Please **pray with us that our efforts in November would be multiplied by God's Spirit**, and that He would lead many to come with us!