



The Last Mile

An ordinary country road. On an ordinary morning. Except that this is the toughest and most rewarding view on my run days. This is the last mile of my run, when I am physically spent and tempted to quit. It is also the best mile.

The heroic Eric Liddell, Scottish missionary to China and 1924 Olympian whose story was told in *Chariots of Fire*, famously said: "I believe that God made me for a purpose. But He also made me fast, and when I run I feel His pleasure."

When I run I do not always feel God's pleasure. He did not make me fast. And perhaps there is no better image of grace than a fat man jogging. But when the last mile comes, God grants me his grace to endure. My family and those I have the privilege to serve come to mind. And I think of God's provision for many challenges.

As you enter the last mile – or the final countdown, or the fourth quarter, or rounding third and heading for home – or your finals week, remember that God has called you to this and He will be faithful even when you feel like you are not worthy or able to finish well. As it says in 2 Cor. 12:9: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

And there are many around you in our community who are praying and eager to help support you. You are not alone and you matter to us and to God.

Michael Hammond
Provost / Executive Vice President

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