



THE BEST IN US
(Children's Story)

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Bible Text: Hebrews 12:1, NKJV, "Run with endurance the race that is set before us."

The story is told of a group of children that ran in the Special Olympics in the mid-1970s. These were boys and girls enjoying a day out in the sun and running races. They were happy and excited to be in the 100-yard race. They were jumping up and down waiting for the signal so they could begin. Then the signal was given to begin the race. The children took off for the finish line. They started running as fast as they could. They were giving it all they had. If you had been there, you would have seen the joy on their faces as they ran down the course—they were having a great time!

Then, suddenly, one of the children tripped and fell shortly after starting. There was a gasp and then a hushed silence as the crowd looked on. A couple of the other racers heard crying and looked behind them. They saw the fallen child lying on the ground. They stopped running, turned around, and started running back toward the starting line. The crowd wondered, "What are they doing? The finish line is the other way!" Then the crowd watched as these two children stopped by the fallen racer. They reached down to help the child up. They had given up their chance to win the race. And they had gone back to help the child who had fallen.

Once they had brushed the dirt off the fallen child, the two children linked their arms through the fallen child's arms, and together they once again started toward the finish line. Those three children crossed the finish line, not as individuals, but together! The crowd was moved to tears, and those three children received a cheering applause.

There are several other stories in which an athlete has fallen and another has given up the race to help the injured person. Why? Because they realized that the race wasn't just about winning, it was about how they wanted to reach the finish line. This is what it means to truly care about others. Our goal is heaven, and we want to "run with endurance the race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1, NKJV). And along the way, we want to help others learn about Jesus "so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God" (Acts 20:24, NKJV).

What can you do to help someone while you are finishing the race? Let's pray.