



Let's Go with God Game Time!

BY ANDREA JAEGER

Supporting events can transform lives for athletes and fans, cheerers and cherished alike. Even for those non-sporting types, the English language has been greatly influenced by sports. “Game time,” “let’s get the ball rolling,” or “keep your eye on the ball” are common in conversation. Other people may be familiar with “throwing in the towel,” “playing hardball,” or being “saved by the bell.” In office or boardroom settings, it may be “smooth sailing,” “you’re up,”

Well-seasoned sports fans are familiar with heightened moments of celebration when athletes point to the sky to give credit to a higher power. Such poignant reminders are common among even the toughest, hardened competitors, whether in backyard events or on one of the grandest stages, the NFL Super Bowl.

Giving glory to God has always been a part of sports tradition, both publicly and privately. Whether it is a touchdown scored, an incredible reception, run, swim, stroke, soar, score, pitch, hit, throw, pass—whatever it takes to garner points, medals, and trophies for the team, country, or individual—athletes worldwide often quantify their successes with divine respect.

For many, “game time” has become synonymous with far more than simply being immersed in sports. And, while numbered or labeled jerseys, pro athlete gene pools, tough training sessions, and disciplined lifestyles have become synonymous with sports legends, the sports highlight reel becomes unnecessary when joining God’s team.

As God’s children—which we all are—we already have the best jersey anyone can wear. It is worn continuously, internally and externally, grace-embroidered, and gifted by God. As we receive this created-for-all wardrobe, brilliance flows at “game time” as we reflect on our “let’s go with God game time,” ensuring success and our personal bests on God’s kingdom team.



Tony Romo and Andrea Jaeger with Little Star Foundation kids.

“Let’s go with God game time” allows us to be our best and most knowledgeable everywhere, because we are with the all-knowing, ever-present, everywhere God. Therefore, each moment with God becomes an expressive, vibrating, everlasting victory celebration.

When we hear the words “game time,” our natural reaction is to “do our best,” “do what we were trained to do,” or “get it done.” But when “game time” becomes “let’s go with God game time,” it becomes a time of meaningful awareness of always being alive and together with Him. This same readiness, excitement, and mentality is connected to God’s omnipresence and omniscience, as demonstrated in Psalm 139:1-3, 7-10.

My professional sports career was full of “let’s go with God game time.” Mark 6:7 (NIV) states, **“Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two.”** God is a team player. In my continuous childhood conversations with God, I expressed to Him, “I get the team concept and really like it, but do You realize You are having me excel in singles’ tennis? I am winning juniors, college age, and adult pro tennis tournaments in singles as a kid. Who is that helping besides me?”

Yes, there were times when deafening silence to this question prevailed, but thankfully, only momentarily. A few days, weeks, or months with no answer to a kid like me simply meant to persistently engage, seek, and continue in wonderment, adoration, and perseverance. I just continued to prevail with questions, conversations, devotion to service, and the idea of contributing to the greater whole, for and with God.

Then, sure enough, opportunities presented themselves. An opponent from a war-torn country arose in my section of the draw, allowing for the perfect stage on a well-known court where it was believed that top seeds often tumbled for superstitious reasons.

It was a heavenly message for me when numerous articles were written about the most prestigious grass

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court tennis venue ever created for tennis announced a certain player who carried the weight of a struggling nation at war on her shoulders. She was my next opponent, on a court which many superstitiously felt advantageous to underdogs, and I was no underdog. God provided a choice scenario for me at that exact “let’s go with God game time.”

In this case and in many others, situations materialized in pro tennis of which I took full advantage. I had complete assurance of what victory looked like, because God and the universe had shown it to me. The victory leap of that player after match point and her country’s proud newspaper headlines with something to cheer about in war still resonate with me to this day. It was a special match and a victory for all, a story not told then and never revealed in detail until now. I guess we all have our own viewpoints of what “let’s go with God game time” looks like.

Looking closer at current sports, estimates have Super Bowl global viewership between 800 million and 1 billion, in 130 countries and 30 languages. The estimated price tag for a 2023 Super Bowl commercial is \$7 million for a 30-second spot. Repeatedly, in such iconic environments, players achieving mind-boggling plays, defining moments,

or scores often give the physical appearance of “giving glory to God.”

They will be in good company, since two new Super Bowl ads this year will make the bold move to feature Jesus. The “He Gets Us” campaign came with a hefty price, which certainly will have naysayers asking, “Why here?” On the other hand, “Thank goodness this is here rather than one more pharmaceutical commercial,” right? Personally, I can get my God infusions from other places than TV commercials. The same is true if the need ever arose for a medical prescription. Still, I’m glad the “He Gets Us” campaign is available to viewers, because it represents a gratitude reminder and pattern interrupt to reflect, remember, and further connect with God. These are important.

Gratitude reminders have no seasonal boundaries. I am grateful my humanitarian efforts are suited and in sync with “let’s go with God game time.” Most kingdom victories, whether humanitarian or in sports, for the most part, go unnoticed yet are registered in full detail in the Book of Life.

It took twenty-five years for a sports reporter to ask me this question at a Grand Slam televised final: “Did you give your all in that final?” I figured the reporter had done his homework, had a job to ask that question, found me, and even presumed the answer. So, I provided a summary: “I give my all for God. Always do.” Even when I stumble or fall, God is always there, ready again, and we partner up for “let’s go with God game time.” In my life, this is always.

Personal bests are unique to each of us. They are filled with the miraculous. Whether kept private or publicly announced, it can be perplexing to outsiders when one avoids the normal standard to win at all costs. However, for those with tendencies to be drawn to kingdom glory, giving one’s all always, for God’s use and purposes, becomes second nature. It becomes as natural as breathing, whether understood by others or not.

I Corinthians 3:9 says, **“For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building.”** Time is man-made, but “let’s go with God” is about God inviting us to join Him forever.

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I look forward to what God has planned daily. Sports are still a glorious part of my life. I am honored and excited that Little Star Foundation currently has three Super Bowl-related programs running to help children with cancer, due to the generosity of the NFL. From Peyton and Eli Manning coaching the Pro Bowl teams in Las Vegas, to the Lombardi trophy festivities for Super Bowl LVII in Phoenix, and ad campaigns widening our appeal, this is an excellent time to reflect on teamwork and “let’s go with God game time!”

The Super Bowl is exciting to watch. The game, halftime show, and commercials each have their role as part of the festivities and traditions. Excitedly, celebrations and connection with God are never once a year but every day and every moment.

Being on God’s team is available for everyone since we are all God’s children. Humanity plus God equals “let’s go with God game time!” I’m in, always and eternally. I look forward to being on God’s team with you, a team that is connected year round. Divine victory is assured; even if it is not revealed at first or second glance, it always is. 🙏

ANDREA JAEGER became the #2-ranked professional tennis player in the world at the age of sixteen. While on the pro tennis circuit, Andrea helped ease the pain and suffering of children in hospitals, schools, and street corners. Using all her pro tennis career earnings, Andrea began her own children’s cancer foundation. For the past thirty-seven years, Little Star Foundation (littlestar.org) has provided long-term care and better quality of life for children with cancer and children in need around the world. Andrea has been connected to MorningStar for decades and has authored *First Service-Following God’s Calling* and *Finding Life’s Purpose*.