

# Spiritual Sideline Analysts

By, Carlotta Whyte

I was watching, with my husband, the various TV sports talk shows at lunch time. They are always quick to judge how an athlete should or should not have performed in the particular sport. Giving often, a thumbs up and thumbs down approach. They assess each play and discuss how the athletes could have done something different for a better outcome.

Listening to the sports analysts discuss their thoughts during their 5<sup>th</sup> quarter review, led me to ponder something else. Just for fun, ponder this with me ----- Suppose at the end of each day, God sets up a group of various “spiritual sideline analysts” who would discuss how you and I have performed our Christian duties for that day. They would review each opportunity that had crossed our path and how we had reacted. They would review our response to each situation that we had encountered that day and rate us on how we measured up, reviewing each conversation and each action that we had taken. And just like the sports analysts who don’t often have great “special sport qualifications” to really know what is the real story on a particular athlete, this group would not have any “special spiritual qualifications” that makes them truly knowledgeable on how we actually did. Given that scenario, how do you think we would we rate?

Now back to reality ---- God, in all His glory, does have that great spiritual insight! And He alone! And while God does watch, assess, and guide us, unlike the “analysts,” He also has the power to give us forgiveness, mercy, and grace!

“And the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To Him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.” (*1 Peter 5:10*)

Prayer: Lord, we are so thankful that you have not made us subject to “spiritual sideline analysts.” For only You, Lord, know what is in our heart as we strive to live our lives as Christians. And we are so humbled, that you also extend forgiveness, mercy, and grace when we fail to do as You would have us to do. May we live our lives following in Your steps, in Jesus name we pray. Amen.