

RUNNING HOME

“I knew from the beginning I had missed the correct path, but the one I saw up ahead would end up taking me to the same destination. I just knew it. Call it instinct. Besides, it’s a beautiful evening and I’ll just enjoy my run. Okay. Well, this street doesn’t look familiar, but I just know if I cross the street and head that way, things will start making sense. I really think that this is the general direction and it should get me there. Well, you know, nothing is looking familiar. I’m starting to get a little worried. I’ve been gone a long time. Maybe I should ask for some help. No. How embarrassing. This is ridiculous. I can find my way back on my own. I’ll just keep plugging along and eventually something will make sense.”

These words were my brother’s explanation of his thought process when he went out for a 30-minute run and returned three hours later. In his defense, he had just flown halfway across the country to visit us in our new home, in a town he’d never been to before. I can’t begin to tell you how worried we were about him that night and the many prayers that went out for his safe return. There was a gentleman in a convenience store that was kind enough to help my brother out and bring him safely home that night.

So, why am I telling you this? Because it is an exact parallel to how so many of us live our lives. My brother physically exhausted himself that night, but working hard didn’t bring him home. He tried to logically figure it out, but logic didn’t bring him home. He tried to use his gut instinct, but instinct didn’t bring him home. He wasted unbelievable time and energy in his quest for home, but ultimately just ran around in circles.

What’s the importance of home? It’s where we feel safe and secure. It’s where our loved ones are. It’s where we find rest for our weary bones, food to satisfy our hunger, and water to quench our thirst.

Jesus Christ is our road map to home. Only Jesus can bring us joy despite our circumstances, peace beyond understanding, and love beyond measure. Only Jesus can truly quench our thirst, satisfy our hunger, and give us rest. Only through Jesus do we discover the true meaning and purpose of our lives. He is our refuge, our shelter, our safe place. And we need to be in His will, for He knows best. His ways are higher than ours. And every path we take in life that is apart from God’s will leads us further away from Him and is an exercise in futility. It’s like chasing the wind.

Sometimes our loved ones’ answered prayers bring us home. Sometimes God’s angels are standing in line at a convenience store and bring us home. And sometimes – well, sometimes we just have to stop running, turn to Jesus, and ask Him to lead us home. I promise you, He’s waiting with open arms.

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