

I have always found that mercy bears richer fruits than strict justice
Abraham Lincoln

The Gift you have been given, give as Gift

Eric Liddell, the Olympic runner, after whom the film, Chariots of Fire, was made said: “When I run, I feel God’s pleasure.” In his quest to win an Olympic gold medal Eric was motivated more by his faith than by his own ego. His faith had him believe that, since God gave him his unique talent, God took a genuine delight in seeing him use that gift. In his heart, he sensed that God was pleased whenever he exercised that talent at its optimum.

Moreover, this inner sense that God was happy with the use of his talent filled Eric with a wonderful energy whenever he ran. It would seem, therefore, that the root and source of Eric’s motivation and pleasure in running was, ultimately, not his desire to win gold medals and popular adulation, though clearly, he was not immune to them. Rather he was motivated by an inner sense that God had given him a special gift and that God wanted him to use that gift to its fullest, and that God was happy when he optimized that gift. He knew that the deepest joy he felt in using his gift had its ultimate source in God, not his own ego. When anyone, therefore, uses the gifts that God gave them properly, God will take pleasure in them. After all God gave us that gift and that gift was given for a reason.