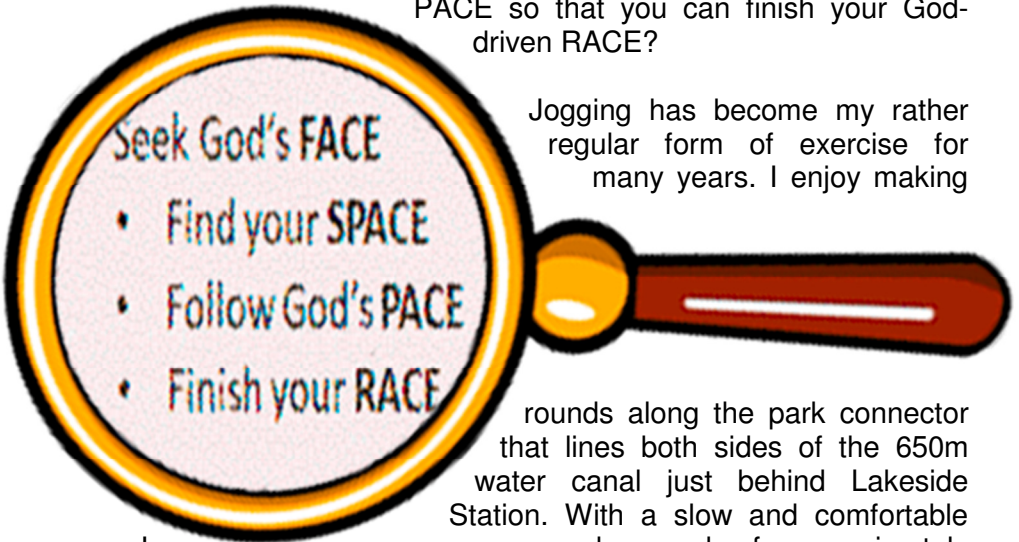


Are you seeking God's FACE to find your SPACE and follow God's PACE so that you can finish your God-driven RACE?



Jogging has become my rather regular form of exercise for many years. I enjoy making

rounds along the park connector that lines both sides of the 650m water canal just behind Lakeside Station. With a slow and comfortable

pace, I can cover each round of approximately 1.3km in less than 11 minutes.

For some reason, I had always treated my mostly evening jogs as fat-burning times or idea-generating periods for my work projects. On good days, with a constant pace, sufficient energy and focused mind (with work!), I would cover at least 4km quite easily. At other times, with tired legs, a weary mind and flagging zeal, I would end up doing less than 3km, sometimes resorting to the walk-a-jog mode just to satisfy myself that I completed the intended distance.

After each jog, while cooling down, I would thank God for giving me strength and discipline to complete the distance. And after crossing the finishing line each time, I would be reminded of this scripture:

1 Tim: 4:8 *"For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come."*

This evening's jog was no different. Yet somehow, I was still trying to draw a lesson from this exercise. A parallel of sorts between my Christian life and the satisfying jog, as the scripture says.

Somehow, my thoughts quickly converged towards the word RACE. Once that happened, the rest of my thoughts fell into place.

I would like to encourage all of us with this short exhortation.

### 1. *A race is run within a defined SPACE*

There is also a specific distance to cover. The 100m sprint is run along the straight home stretch of a 400m stadium. A marathon route is defined within a given geographical space. For some of us, God has defined a longer distance in a bigger space. For others, a shorter one in a smaller space but nonetheless a fruitful and complete race in the sight of God.

From the scripture below, we know that Jesus is coming back and expecting to see the harvest that we have brought about in our God-assigned SPACE.

Mark 12:1-2 *"Jesus then began to speak to them in parables: 'A man planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a pit for the winepress and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. At harvest time he sent a servant to the tenants to collect from them some of the fruit of the vineyard.'"*

### ***Reflection:***

Where is your SPACE?

Is it your home, where you need to take care of family? Is it industry, where you can shine for Jesus?

## 2. A race is run with a planned PACE

To complete a race within a set time or to win it, we need to have a planned PACE. It cannot be left to chance. In this regard, I thank God that we are not left to fend for ourselves. For oftentimes, our spirit is willing but our flesh is weak.

Psalm 32:8 "*I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.*"

God has promised to lead us with His PACE. We simply need to seek His counsel and follow His lead. He speaks through the Bible. He speaks through His Holy Spirit who teaches us all things. He speaks through Providence. He can even speak with His audible voice!

### **Reflection:**

How has God been speaking to you? He is dictating His PACE. What are you doing about it? Let us take stock. If we are falling behind, let us determine to keep up with God's PACE. He makes all things beautiful in His time.

## 3. A RACE is meant to be completed

God has created us and redeemed us for a purpose. He made each of us unique and gave us gifts to contribute to His Kingdom work. He has called us and hence expects us to complete the race and win the prize of our calling.

1 Cor 9:24 "*Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to **get the prize.***"

We are not competing with other Christians. We are competing against ourselves, against the extent to which we have obeyed God's calling and done what He is guiding us to do daily.

Heb 12:4 "*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so*

*easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the **race marked out for us.**"*

***Reflection:***

What is your calling? Are you planning to finish the race with a plan: Are you seeking God's **FACE** to find your **SPACE** and follow God's **PACE** so that you can finish your **RACE** with faithfulness, or are you still leaving it to chance and lethargy?

Let us unite our hearts and determine to live the abundant lives that our Lord Jesus has given to us, and in turn share it with others.

*Bryan Tay*