

Grace Notes

Feel the Power

2.02.10



***“For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk, but of power,”
(1 Corinthians 4:20)***

Last week, Kurt Warner, quarterback for the *Arizona Cardinals*, called it quits after 12 seasons with the NFL. Football fans will miss him. His stats were astounding: Four Pro Bowls, two NFL MVP awards, three Super Bowl appearances (one being a victory), and the top three passing games in Super Bowl history. At 38, most experts think Warner could've still played another year at a high level.

ESPN editorialist, Seth Wickersham, wrote a great column last week about Warner. Among all the memories & stats for which Wickersham thanked Warner, this is the paragraph I'll most remember: Wickersham writes:

Thanks for the religion. Some athletes give their life to Jesus Christ as a PR move; some are ripe with hypocrisy; some just say offensive things. Warner always expressed his faith without trivializing it or us.

In a professional sports world consumed with narcissism, greed and celebrity, Kurt Warner, a born-again believer, is a breath of fresh air. For Warner, playing in the NFL was simply a vehicle through which Jesus could use him to further Christ's Kingdom. Simply put, while the majority saw a football field, Warner saw a mission field.

In the professional sports arena the selfish & childish certainly get 98% of the press. However, Warner represents a number of athletes (*University of Florida's* Tim Tebow comes to mind) who understand that there is something greater than what we see—a higher purpose.

Talk is cheap (as Wickersham reminded us in his editorial), which is why Warner spoke most loudly by the way he lived his life. *The Associated Press* described him as “a man of deep faith who carried a Bible to each post-game news conference.”

“Feel the Power” is a former slogan of the NFL. Paul wrote, “For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk, but of power.” Surrounded by powerful athletes, Warner, driven not by winning but by his love for Jesus Christ, modeled for them something far more powerful.

Soli Deo Gloria, Nick

