

How to Be a Winner 1 of 5

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Study Given by W. D. Frazee—November 11,

I want to study how to be a winner. How to succeed. How to survive. How to be all that you long to be now, next month, and all the rest of you live. Do you want to be a winner? God wants you to be.

When I was a boy I heard the expression, "Learn to be a good loser," but I never was successful at that. I never got to the place where I could accept losing. God never made me to be a loser. God made me to be a winner.

Who wins? The stronger of two contestants usually wins. It isn't always the stronger. Sometimes it is the wiser, the more skillful. If Samson and I were having a wrestling match, who would you expect to win?

With those things before us I ask, Who do you think is the stronger, you or the Devil? Let's face it. The Devil is a lot stronger than any of us. If you haven't found it out yet it is because you haven't lived very long. Who is wiser, you or the Devil? The Devil is more subtle than anybody. What chance do we have then? Well, it doesn't lie in that direction.

Who is stronger, God or Satan? God is stronger than Satan. Do you really believe that? Who is wiser, God or Satan? God is wiser than Satan. Do you believe that? Why, the distance is infinite. God is many millions times stronger and wiser than the Devil. You can see that the question of whether you are a winner or a loser depends upon which one you are connected with. It depends on whether you are depending on yourself or on God.

"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them:
because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the
world" 1 John 4:4.

You have done what? Overcome them. Won or lost? Won. Does this text give the reason? Yes. Is it because you are greater than the Devil? Oh, no. It is because He that is in you is greater than he that is in the world. God delights to make His strength perfect in weakness. He delights to take hopeless material and use it. And the whole Bible is full of experiences where weak men did great things through faith in God. We must be connected with the source of power, otherwise all our efforts are futile and fruitless.

Many people look forward to this as something that may happen or will happen someday. God wants it to happen today. Often God speaks in the past tense of this being a fact. He speaks in the present and in the future. There are phases of victory that belong to the future. If we have arthritis we may not be

delivered from it today. If we have an ulcer it could be it will take awhile. But there are some things that are already settled. And the things that are already settled are far more important than arthritis or ulcers. It is the question of deliverance from the guilt and power of sin. That is what God wants to have settled in our lives. God wants to deliver us from the burden of the past failures and the burden of the present temptations. Praise God.

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever" Hebrews 13:8.

Will Jesus be stronger in the future than He is this morning? No. Jesus will never be any stronger than He is right now, because He already has all power in heaven and in earth. Will He ever be any wiser than He is right now? No. Well then, if Jesus is living in us, and the source of our power is in Jesus, then we can have how much? All power and all wisdom. If we don't have Jesus, we are sunk. We are a failure to start with, and we had just as well recognize it.

If Christ is living in you, the enemy cannot defeat you. If Christ is not in you, you cannot defeat the enemy. It is that simple.

"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith" 1 John 5:4.

Our faith overcomes the world. Notice that it is not faith in itself that gives us the victory. It is faith in Christ. Christ is our victory. There is a type of religious experience common in the world where people think that if they have enough faith they can do everything. Faith in itself is valueless. It is just so much talk. It is the One where our faith is anchored and centered that makes it valuable. It is our faith in Christ. He is to dwell in our hearts by faith. So if Jesus is the object of our faith, the One on whom our hopes are centered, and He is dwelling in our hearts, then our faith in Him is the victory.

Faith overcomes the world. I am going along the road and there is a big rock. If I have faith I will go on over it. Maybe it is a big sea. Israel went through the Red Sea by faith. It is interesting what faith can do.

"For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love" Galatians 5:6.

Paul says don't worry about circumcision. There is something infinitely more important. Faith avails. It works. That's what the Bible says. Some people have the idea that faith is one thing and works is something else. Oh, no. There are works without faith, and the Bible tells us they are dead. There is a faith without works and the Bible tells us it is dead. Well I don't want any dead works, do you? And I certainly don't want any dead faith. Real faith is so good that it works. It works by what? Love. That is the great motive power in the universe—the great love of God revealed in Jesus Christ to human hearts.

I trust that the simplicity of faith, which works by love, will be very clear to our hearts. I long that faith will be an experimental experience to each of you. Doubtless all of us have taken some steps in that direction. I hope all are longing for more and more. And the Spirit's answer is, Much more. God give us that experience.

I want you to notice that it is what faith accomplishes that Paul is talking about. By faith Abel did something. He offered to God a sacrifice. By faith Noah did something. He built an ark. By faith Abraham did something. He went out into the country he was to receive as an inheritance. Later he offered Isaac. So all the way through faith is manifest in results. It accomplishes something. It works. So do not be afraid of works. Be afraid of dead works. Be afraid of dead faith.

Faith works by love. Faith is believing Jesus. Faith is believing that anything Jesus says is true. Faith is believing that anything Jesus wants done can get done. And faith is believing that if Jesus asks me to do it, I can do it by His grace.

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" Philippians 4:13.

What is our faith in? The promise of God. It is not in our faith. Therefore we should not be focusing our attention on how strong our faith is, but on how strong our God is. The thing that builds faith is not focusing on faith, but on Him. It is looking to Jesus that inspires faith.

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God" Hebrews 12:2.

Jesus is the one that begins the work of faith in our hearts. He is the One who carries it on and finishes it. Praise His name.

Our faith is in what Jesus says, believing that He cannot lie. Do you know why God cannot lie? The Bible says He cannot lie. That is an interesting expression. He cannot lie because anything He says is true the minute He says it. He is the author of truth. We must not think of truth as something apart from God that He must conform to. That is a mistaken idea. Jesus says:

"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me" John 14:6.

Jesus is truth. So when He says to the man lying by the pool, Would you like to get well? the man says, I don't have anybody to help put me in the pool. Jesus says, Rise, take up your bed and walk. What does the man do? He rises and takes up his bed and walks. But he couldn't walk. He hadn't walked for thirty-eight years. He did the impossible because he believed Christ's word. And don't miss the lesson. It wasn't that if he had faith he could have done that anytime. Nothing of the kind. His faith was not in himself. His faith was in the word of Christ. Do you see the difference?

"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear" Hebrews 11:3.

Think of the infinite energy displayed in the creation of this world. God started with nothing. When you and I start with nothing, we end up with nothing. But we are not creators. God is. We need to be anchored in Him. We need to be connected with Him. Then we can do great things because we are believing the creative word of Christ. And this calls us not to invent a lot of things we would like to see happen. It calls for us to listen to His word.

God already has enough plans laid to keep us busy for the rest of our lives. Why waste time and energy dreaming up a lot of interesting and wonderful things that we can do? Often our plans fail that God's plans for us may succeed. Oh, that we may be willing to take our poor, little, human plans and lay them aside at His feet. This is the price of success. If you want to be on the winning team, you must listen to the Captain. He who trusts in this leader will never know defeat. The life of the trusting disciple is like that of his Master, a series of uninterrupted victories, not always seen to be such here, but recognized as such in the great hereafter.

We are dealing with faith in the powerful creative work of Jesus Christ. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God. God said, Let there be light, and there was light. Notice that when God said that, it was His word that made the light. He didn't have to command some angel to get busy and manufacture a dynamo or some power plant. No. His word had in it everything necessary to accomplish that which it called for. Thank God, the fact that you and I are here this morning is evidence of it.

"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" Philippians 1:6.

Creation or evolution, which do you believe in? You quickly answer creation. You believe that creative power was operating six thousand years ago. Is it operating now? Can I be forgiven by creation or evolution? Will I gradually lose that guilt, or can I deliver it over to Jesus now?

Somebody says, Brother Frazee, I don't seem to see it happen that fast.

Well, then comes the question whether you are going to have faith or whether you are going to have feelings. I pray that God will deliver every trembling soul from the slavery of feeling. Notice this statement:

"Feeling is not faith; the two are distinct. Faith is ours to exercise, but joyful feeling and the blessing are God's to give. The grace of God comes to the soul through the channel of living faith, and that faith it is in our power to exercise.

"True faith lays hold of and claims the promised blessing before it is realized and felt. We must send up our petitions in faith within the second veil and let our faith take hold of the promised blessing and claim it as ours. We are then to believe that we receive the blessing, because our faith has hold of it, and according to the Word it is ours. 'What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.' Mark 11:24. Here is faith, naked faith, to believe that we receive the blessing, even before we realize it" *Early Writings*, page 72.

Can I have a blessing even though I don't realize it? Yes. By what? By faith.

We all want to be winners, not losers. God never arranges for any of us to lose. If we do, it is our own fault. God wants us to win.

"Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place" 2 Corinthians 2:14.

John the Baptist got his head cut off in the dungeon. Was he a loser or a winner? He was a winner. Paul got his head cut off at Rome. Was he a loser or a winner? Christ was crucified. Was He a loser or a winner? Thank God, in His expiring breath He cried, It is finished, and the shout of triumph rang all through the universe.

Our ideas of winning sometimes need adjustment. But real failure God never planned for any Christian. We don't have to fail. And thank God we shall see in the kingdom that every step we took by faith is a step of winning. So let's look away from ourselves to Jesus. Let's anchor our souls within the second veil to where Jesus is. Let's listen to His word, and believe that anything He says is true, and anything He commands can be done, and can be done by us if we have Him. And we do have Him, because He says:

"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name" John 1:12.

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